

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Access to Academic Visas and Revalidation



We urge you to

- support provisions that allow for **domestic renewal of F or J -type visas** at the offices of U.S. Consulate.
- **oppose H.R.392**, an amendment of Immigration and Nationality Act
- **oppose efforts to remove Optional Practical Training (OPT)** for international students

Positive Economic Impact

In the 2016-2017 academic year, international students contributed \$37 billion to the U.S. economy. [1]

For every 2 international students enrolled, 1 U.S. job is created or supported [1, 2], often through creating their own U.S.-based companies. [3]

International student enrollment in graduate programs increases domestic enrollment. [3]
STEM companies rely on international students trained in the U.S. [3]

Changes to Enrollment

In 2017, there was a 4% *decrease* in international graduate student enrollment [3], largely due to changes in policy. This is significant compared to the 3.4% *increase* in enrollment from 2016 [2].

Talented foreign students are being enticed to studying in other countries with more attractive student visa policies [4] [5].

50% of the decline in enrollment came from graduate students in STEM fields. [3]

Many university programs rely on international students and may be shut down if international student enrollment drops. [3]

Benefits to Eased Renewal Restrictions

Decreased Bureaucracy and Financial Burden

- Reduce the workload on U.S. consulates
- Prevent unnecessary travel by visa holders and their families, saving time and money [5]

Increased Security

- increased involvement and utilization of the expertise of domestic State Department and Department of Homeland Security officials

Promotes the Progress of Federally Funded Research

- promotion of U.S. research on the international stage [5]

>1 million
international students
in the US [2]

4%
decrease in
international students
in the 2017-2018
academic year [3]

>5%
of all students in Higher
Education are
international students
[2]

\$37 billion
contribution of
international students
to the US economy [1]

67%
of financial support for
international students
come from their home
countries [2]

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Visa Access and Revalidation Concerns



References

- [1] **2016-2017. NAFSA International Student Economic Value Tool**
https://www.nafsa.org/Policy_and_Advocacy/Policy_Resources/Policy_Trends_and_Data/NAFSA_International_Student_Economic_Value_Tool/
- [2] **Open Doors 2017 Executive Summary**
<https://www.iie.org/en/Why-IIE/Announcements/2017-11-13-Open-Doors-2017-Executive-Summary>
- [3] **NFA Policy Brief: Declining International Student Enrollment at U.S. Universities and Its Potential Impact. February 2018. National Foundation for American Policy.**
<https://nfap.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Decline-in-International-Student-Enrollment.NFAP-Policy-Brief-February-2018-2.pdf>
- [4] **Edward Alden. March 22, 2017. Immigration Enforcement and the Impact on Higher Education, Council on Foreign Relations.**
<https://www.cfr.org/blog/immigration-enforcement-and-impact-higher-education>
- [5] **Policy Implications of International Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars in the United States, The National Academies.**
www.nap.edu/catalog/11289.html

Resources

International student economic impact per state and U.S. Congressional district visit:
www.nafsa.org/economicvalue

Report of the Secure Borders and Open Doors Advisory Committee, January 2008:
http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/hsac_SBODACreport508-compliant_version2.pdf

NAGPS Proposed Language: Domestic Revalidation of Student Visas:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WSrQUUkNaaGWBWkxvFQ_HSDJJ0KsKk_5x9CihYXznY/edit