



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE-PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, June 2, 2020

**Organization:** *National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS)*

**Contact:** *Madhan K. Arulanandam* | Director of International Student Concerns | [disc@nagps.org](mailto:disc@nagps.org)

*Fang Zhang* | Vice President & COO | [vice-president@nagps.org](mailto:vice-president@nagps.org)

## Statement on Suspension of Entry of Chinese Graduate Students and Scholars

On May 29th, U.S. President Donald J. Trump issued a [proclamation](#) suspending the entry of Chinese graduate students and scholars into the United States who have direct ties to universities affiliated with the People's Liberation Army in China. The reason given from the administration for issuing the restrictive order was that those Chinese nationals present a national security risk. It is still under determination, by the Department of States and the Department of Homeland Security, graduate students and researchers from which institutions will be subjected to entry ban. Moreover, it is yet clear how will this proclamation affect the visa status of Chinese graduate students and scholars who are currently in the U.S. While the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) supports efforts to improve national security and preserve U.S. interests, **we are concerned** with the implementation of this order, the likely negative effect it will have on higher education, and the potential rise of anti-Asian sentiment in the U.S.

NAGPS is concerned with the potential negative effect of blanket bans such as this and believes that efforts to improve national security in higher education should be exercised in a surgical and sustainable way. More importantly, orders like this should always take into consideration the amount xenophobia it may project, especially during this unprecedented time. Increasing incidents of targeted racism have been reported on Chinese- and Asian-Americans in our community, where union and harmony are much needed for us as a nation to persevere during and after COVID-19.

Chinese students also comprise roughly 360,000 of one million international students and accounted for 13.5 percent of all of the 42,227 students earning doctorates in science and engineering fields at U.S. universities in 2018. Removing even some of these Chinese graduate students from the U.S. will have a negative impact on research outputs at our colleges and universities, and will also negatively affect teaching undergraduates. Our universities are currently dealing with diminishing financial resources because of the COVID-19 pandemic, losing more students because of the visa ban will only serve to make the situation worse.

NAGPS will continue to work with and engage our partners and our community to address this situation, to ensure the well-being and safety of the Chinese and other graduate students in our community, and to support our universities in their efforts to better equip and train our next generation.

###