About NAFSA

NAFSA: Association of International Educators is the world's largest nonprofit association dedicated to international education and exchange. Founded in 1948, NAFSA's 10,000 members are located at more than 3,500 institutions worldwide, in over 150 countries.

NAFSA believes that international education advances learning and scholarship, fosters understanding and respect among people of diverse backgrounds and perspectives, and is essential for developing globally competent individuals.
About the Alliance

The voice of the United States international exchange community

Mission Statement:
As the voice of international exchange, the Alliance promotes the growth and impact of exchange programs and the effectiveness of its members by engaging in advocacy, providing member development opportunities, and building public awareness of the power of exchanges.

We believe in the power of exchanges to connect people in profound ways across cultures, borders, and generations. By doing so we:

- Increase mutual understanding
- Support U.S. national security
- Strengthen the U.S. economy
Washington Update
Current Political Environment

• Divided government (White House/Congress)
• Active judicial branch
• 2020 Elections on the horizon
  ➢ 19 Democrats, 4 Republicans running for president
  ➢ Not seeking re-election to Congress (as of 10/1)
    ▪ Senate: 4 Republicans, 1 Democrat
    ▪ House: 17 Republicans, 5 Democrats
Immigration/Visa Policy

• Travel Ban/Extreme Vetting Policy
  ➢ Administrative processing delays
  ➢ Increased social media scrutiny
• Slower processing times at USCIS
  ➢ More RFEs, EAD delays
• Potential changes to OPT program, D/S policy
  ➢ Spring 2019 Regulatory Agenda
  ➢ Washtech Lawsuit – Amicus brief
Immigration/Visa Policy

• DHS: Changes in leadership
• China: Trade stand off, national security concerns
• Merit-Based Immigration Proposal
• Refugee admissions at historic low
Changes Directed at DOS EVP

Nearly 3 years into the Administration:
• 56% proposed cut ECA for FY ‘20
• Overstay changes
• Increased vetting of visa applications
• Buy American, Hire American Exec Order
DOS Exchange Program Funding FY10-19

Amount (Millions USD)

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FY2020 Request Summary

• Proposed funding U.S. Department of State educational and cultural exchange programs: $309.6 million (vs. $159 million for FY2019 request)
• Due to leadership of Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Marie Royce, reverses recent downward trend in requests
• $391.3 million or nearly 56% decrease from FY2019 enacted level of $700.9 million
• If enacted, request would still be dramatic decrease
Strategies for Engagement
Role as Advocate

• Educate / make your issues heard
• Influence public policy / agenda setting
• Inform decision-makers about your issue and let them know directly what is important
• Become your congressional office’s go-to resource for your issue
• Be a voice for international education and exchange
• Advocacy is a marathon, not a sprint...
Sharing Information

Summer Work Travel (SWT) Program Review

Intern and Trainee Program 2016 Review Report

Camp Counselor Program 2019 Review Report
Shaping Positive Opinions of the U.S.

Participants gained improved understanding and appreciation for American culture

How did your opinions change regarding the following?

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90%

- U.S. in general
- American culture
- American people
- American companies/organizations/camps

@ELPsintheUSA
#ENGLISHUSA
Economic Benefits of International Students

NAFSA’s International Student Economic Value Tool

www.nafsa.org/economicvalue

*New data available November 18*
“Welcome to Succeed”

www.nafsa.org/losingtalent
www.nafsa.org/welcometosucceed
• 380 higher education institutions, 75 organizations, and 23 secondary schools are part of the campaign, first launched in late 2016.

• 59 schools participating in scholarship campaign, first launched in 2018.

• Use hashtag in social media posts to demonstrate ways your school/program supports and values international students.

• As of June 1, NAFSA serves as the official coordinating body of campaign.

• Website: [www.youarewelcometherusa.org](http://www.youarewelcometherusa.org)
Developing Relationships
• First-hand experience in the legislative process
• All politics is local; recognize power you have as a constituent
• Personal relationships matter
• 2019: 200 advocates from 42 states
  (84 senators; 130 representatives)
• 2020: Registration now open at www.nafsa.org/advocacyday
• First Monday of August every year – Aug. 3, 2020
• 2019: 143 activities in 38 states led by 38 organizations
• Participants and hosts share cultural diversity and American customs and give back to their communities
• Events include food, an activity, and giving back to the community
November 18-22, 2019
A joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education
Promotes programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences
Alliance facilitates member engagement during IEW
  • IIE: “Meet a Fulbrighter”
  • Cenet: Student Recognition Ceremony
  • Hostelling International USA: Travel Workshops