

Strengthening the U.S. Role in the Global Community



As our society becomes increasingly globalized, it is essential that federal policies support the exchange of U.S. domestic and international students. International graduate students bring a rich array of ideas and experiences that promote cross-cultural understanding which is necessary for effective diplomacy. According to CGS data, there are over 339,000 international students pursuing master’s and doctoral education at CGS member institutions and regional affiliates. International students constituted 18.5% of total enrollment in master’s and doctoral programs in Fall 2017.³ For U.S. graduate education to remain the gold standard, federal policies should support the ability of U.S. higher education institutions to attract top talent from across the globe. They should be designed to minimize interruption of a

Recommendations

- **Strengthen funding for programs administered under federal agencies that allow U.S. graduate students to participate in international research opportunities, including those within the National Science Foundation.**
- **Maintain duration of status for international students with F, M, and J visas.**
- **Uphold Optional Practical Training and the STEM extension.**
- **Allow nonimmigrant foreign students studying at the bachelor’s level or higher to be eligible for dual intent.**
- **Ensure timely processing of student visas to minimize interruption of a student’s academic progression.**
- **Allow international students who obtain advanced degrees to qualify for immigrant visas so that they may remain in the U.S. and work.**
- **Strengthen partnerships between U.S. higher education institutions to advance U.S. policies in developing educational systems abroad.**
- **Promote inter-agency collaboration as well as collaboration with the higher education community on national security issues.**

student’s academic progress and allow graduates to apply their education and training in the U.S. workforce. Inter-agency collaboration, as well

as collaboration with the higher education community on national security issues, ought to remain a high priority.

3. Okahana, H., & Zhou, E. (2018). Graduate enrollment and degrees: 2007 to 2017. Washington, DC: Council of Graduate Schools.