

# Promoting the U.S. through International Graduate Education and Research

## PRIORITIES

- ▶ Increase investments in programs that facilitate **study abroad opportunities** for U.S. domestic students.
- ▶ Strengthen investments in programs administered under federal agencies that allow U.S. graduate students to participate in **international research opportunities**.
- ▶ Maintain duration of status for international students with **F, M, and J visas**.
- ▶ Uphold **Optional Practical Training** and the **STEM extension**.
- ▶ Expand the number of **H-1B visas** available to holders of graduate degrees from U.S. institutions to enhance the U.S. workforce in an increasingly competitive global economy.
- ▶ Strengthen partnerships between U.S. higher education institutions to advance U.S. policies in developing **higher education systems abroad**.
- ▶ Strengthen inter-agency collaboration with the higher education community on **national security issues**.

## RATIONALE

As our world becomes increasingly connected, it is essential that federal policies promote the United States as the premier destination for graduate education. According to CGS data, in Fall 2019, international students (master's and doctoral) constituted 20% of first-time enrolled students.<sup>3</sup> International graduate students bring a rich array of ideas and experiences that promote cross-cultural understanding which is necessary for effective diplomacy.

For U.S. graduate education to remain globally competitive, federal policies should support the ability of U.S. higher education institutions to attract top talent from all corners of the world. They should be designed to minimize interruption of a student's academic progress and allow graduates to apply their education and training in the U.S. workforce.