

Twitter Toolkit In Advocating for International Students and OPT



Below are a series of suggested hashtags and tweets raising awareness and support for international graduate students and Optional Practical Training (OPT). We encourage CGS members to use this Twitter toolkit as a resource. Make sure to follow CGS on Twitter [@CGSGradEd](https://twitter.com/CGSGradEd).

Twitter best practices:

- Whether you are tweeting from your personal account or a university-affiliated account, you may want to check with your federal government relations staff on best practices for tweeting at your Members of Congress or tagging their twitter handles in your messages.
- Less is More. You don't always need to reach the 280 character-limit to make an impactful statement.
- Images/visuals help draw attention to your tweets. Including them in your tweets may drive more traffic to your message.

Suggested hashtags to include in your tweets:

#PreserveOPT
#IntlGradStudents

#GradEd
#CGSadvocates

Be sure to tag CGS's Twitter handle [@CGSGradEd](https://twitter.com/CGSGradEd) so that we can re-tweet/like your tweets!

Suggested Tweets:

Please tailor as you see fit and personalize to your institution, if appropriate.

OPT

- We ask Congress and the Administration to ensure federal policies welcome #IntlGradStudents and #PreserveOPT.
- We ask the Administration to #PreserveOPT to allow U.S. institutions to continue recruiting top global talent who add value to American higher education and our economy.
- Optional Practical Training offers international students opportunities to gain work experience directly related to their program of study and further benefits the students, U.S. employers, and the U.S. economy. #PreserveOPT

- Optional Practical Training helps connect employers with highly-educated individuals who possess the knowledge and skills to advance industry in the U.S. #PreserveOPT
- Our increasingly globalized economy requires collaborative, global solutions, which is why we must #PreserveOPT to continue offering U.S. domestic students and employers the chance to build connections with #IntlGradStudents.
- STEM-OPT is a key force driving the U.S. workforce and economy. SEVIS data reports: in 2007, U.S. employers granted 2 employment authorizations for STEM OPT. In 2019, that number had increased to 70,000 (140%) #PreserveOPT #PreserveResearchAndDevelopment
- As highly-skilled workers, OPT participants keep the U.S. at the forefront of global competitiveness. #PreserveOPT and advocate for #IntlGradStudents.

International Students:

- We ask U.S. federal policymakers to support our research enterprise with policies that welcome #IntlGradStudents from across the globe.
- #IntlGradStudents allow the U.S. to shape a future workforce that is diverse, collaborative, and globalized.
- America's research enterprise depends on the contributions of #IntlGradStudents, scholars, and researchers to stay at the forefront of cutting-edge breakthroughs and developments.
- Many #IntlGradStudents build businesses in the U.S. after graduation which increases job opportunities for domestic workers.
- U.S. federal policies must #PreserveOPT to continue attracting top #IntlGradStudents who choose to study in the U.S. because of opportunities like these.
- #IntlGradStudents contribute approximately \$41 B and over 458,000 jobs to the U.S. economy, according to @NAFSA.
- .@CRS4Congress finds that 72% of foreign doctorate recipients were still in the U.S. 10 years after receiving their degrees. The U.S. must #WelcomeIntlGradStudents to carry on these contributions to our economy.
- #IntlGradStudents make significant contributions to American communities, scholarship and research, and our nation's standing as a global leader.
- U.S. institutions are the premiere location for international graduate students to study. #CGSAdvocates for policies that keep it that way.

- .@CommerceGov reports: international students contributed \$44.7 billion to the U.S. economy in 2018, up 5.5% from 2017. #CGSAdvocates