



Promoting the U.S. Through International Graduate Education and Research

PRINCIPLES

- ▶ The strength of our nation's graduate education enterprise depends on both domestic and international scholarship.
- ▶ For U.S. graduate education to remain the gold standard, federal policies should support the ability of U.S. universities to attract top international talent and foster educational opportunities and research collaborations between American students and scholars with their counterparts at institutions in other countries.

PRIORITIES

- ▶ Maintain duration of status for international students with F, M, and J visas to pursue graduate education in the United States.
- ▶ Uphold Optional Practical Training Program (12 months) and the STEM extension (36 months). OPT is an important bridge for international students moving from student visas to employment-based visas.
- ▶ Expand the number of H-1B visas available to holders of graduate degrees from U.S. institutes of higher education to enhance the U.S. workforce.
- ▶ Maintain the university and non-profit research exemption from the H-1B visa cap.
- ▶ Eliminate per-country cap for employment-based green cards and make other needed reforms to the nation's immigration system.
- ▶ Strengthen cooperation and collaboration between the U.S. federal government and higher education community on national security issues.

RATIONALE

- ▶ As our world becomes increasingly connected, it is essential that federal policies advance global competence as well as promote the United States as the premier destination for graduate education. International graduate students bring a rich array of ideas and experiences that promote cross-cultural understanding which is necessary for effective diplomacy.