International Students Contribute to Our Economy and American Innovation

International Students Grow the U.S. Economy

While international students make up only 5% of overall U.S. college enrollments, they make significant contributions to our communities.¹

International students contributed nearly $33 billion to the U.S. economy last year.²

International students created or supported over 400,000 U.S. jobs. That’s three jobs for every seven international students.³

Nearly one-quarter of the founders of the $1 billion U.S. startup companies first came to America as international students.⁴

International Students Help America Lead in Innovation

For America to remain the leader in scientific discovery, we must continue to attract the best and brightest from around the world.⁵

U.S. productivity is generated largely by advances in technological improvements. Technological improvements are largely driven by the rate of innovation.⁶

In 2016, all six American winners of the Nobel Prizes in economics and scientific fields were immigrants.⁷

Immigrants have been awarded 40% of the Nobel Prizes won by Americans in chemistry, medicine, and physics since 2000.⁸

SOURCES
1 tinyurl.com/BrainsWithoutBorders | 2,3 tinyurl.com/NAFSEconomicValueTool | 4 tinyurl.com/ImmigrantBillionDollarStartups | 5,6 tinyurl.com/IntlStudentContributions | 7,8 tinyurl.com/ImmigrantsNobelPrizes
America Needs International Students and Scholars

The United States is in a competition for global talent with other countries. We are losing our market share of international students and scholars, while many other countries are proactively introducing national policies and marketing strategies in order to attract these talented individuals.

What Congress Can Do to Help Our Universities Compete

America needs welcoming and commonsense immigration policies; uncertainty hinders our competitive edge.

**Congress should exercise oversight**

over the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the State Department to ensure these agencies:

- Allow students to gain experiential work experience
- Ensure timely and predictable visa processing
- Strategically use resources to focus on violent convicted criminals and not on vetted students who enhance our security and economy

Congress should support bills that make us a more welcoming nation such as the BRIDGE Act.

We urge Congress to protect practical training and make more green cards available for students who graduate from our universities.

**SOURCES**

1 tinyurl.com/AU-PostStudyWorkArrangements

2 tinyurl.com/CA-StayPostGraduation

3 tinyurl.com/CN-PostStudyWorkGraduates