

America Needs International Students and Scholars


The United States is in a competition for global talent with other countries. In 2020, we experienced a fourth consecutive year of **decline** in new international student enrollment. We are also losing our market share of international students and scholars (down 7% since 2001), while many other countries are proactively establishing national policies and marketing strategies in order to attract these talented individuals.




AUSTRALIA



Foreign students can work for up to 18 months after graduation. Graduates of certain high-need occupations are able to work longer, for up to four years.¹ In 2019, Australia saw an increase of nearly 10% in international student enrollment. In 2019, the government announced students who study and remain in certain regional areas will receive an additional year on their post-study work visa.²



CANADA



Following graduation, foreign students can work for a time period equal to the period they studied in Canada, up to a maximum of three years. Work experience considered “skilled” helps graduates qualify for legal residence in Canada.³ In 2019, international enrollment increased by 13%.



CHINA



Foreign students graduating with a master’s degree or above are immediately eligible to apply for work visas within one year of graduation.⁴ In 2008, China set a target of bringing half a million foreign students to its shores by 2020; China is on track to meet this goal, hosting 492,000 students in 2018.

What the U.S. Government Can Do to Help Our Universities Compete



America needs a national **recruitment strategy** to proactively attract talented individuals.



Congress should support bills that **make us a more welcoming nation.**



Congress should allow **international student visa applicants** to express interest in staying in the U.S. after graduation.

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