



February 12, 2026

The Honorable Mora Namdar
Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Assistant Secretary Namdar,

On behalf of NAFSA: Association of International Educators, I write to warmly congratulate you on your confirmation as Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs. Your leadership comes at a pivotal moment for global mobility and U.S. competitiveness, and we look forward to building a strong and productive partnership with you and your team.

I also write to respectfully request a meeting to discuss the visa interview and adjudication process for international students and scholars—particularly those planning to arrive on U.S. campuses this fall. Ensuring a predictable, efficient, and transparent visa process is essential not only to institutional planning, but also to sustaining the United States’ position as a destination of choice for the world’s brightest minds.

NAFSA is the world’s largest nonprofit professional association dedicated to international education, representing more than 10,000 members across over 3,500 colleges and universities. We deeply value the long-standing and constructive relationship between the Bureau of Consular Affairs and NAFSA and are eager to continue collaborating in ways that support both national interests and the vitality of U.S. higher education.

We would welcome the opportunity to better understand how visa processing will proceed in the coming months for international students and scholars, whose contributions to American academia, research, and innovation are both significant and well documented. In particular, we hope to partner with you to help avoid potential disruptions such as last summer’s unexpected three-week pause in visa interviews during the height of application season—an interruption that may have contributed to fewer new student arrivals in fall 2025.

Additionally, we are concerned about the implications of the current travel ban, which does not provide exemptions for international students and exchange visitors, as well as reports of appointment delays affecting international scholars seeking H-1B visas in India, with some rescheduled dates extending into 2027. These developments create uncertainty for institutions, researchers, and students alike.

We would also appreciate insight into how this summer's FIFA World Cup, hosted in the United States, may affect consular resources and visa processing capacity at certain posts. Historically, the Bureau has prioritized student and scholar visa applications during the critical May–August period, helping ensure timely campus arrivals. We are hopeful this important practice will continue.

At a time when global competition for talent is intensifying, it is more important than ever that the United States signal clarity, consistency, and welcome. NAFSA stands ready to serve as a partner and resource as we work together to ensure that all qualified international students and scholars can contribute fully to our campuses, communities, and economy.

Thank you for your leadership and public service. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to meet at your earliest convenience to discuss these matters and explore avenues for continued collaboration. Please feel free to have your staff contact my executive assistant, Romona Morton, at **Romona.Morton@nafsa.org** to identify a mutually convenient time.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Fanta Aw, PhD
Executive Director & CEO
NAFSA: Association of International Educators