

NAFSA's Strategic Plan 2021-2026

What We Believe

NAFSA believes that international education advances learning and scholarship, fosters understanding and respect among people of diverse backgrounds and perspectives, is essential for developing globally competent individuals, and builds leadership for the global community. We believe that international education lies at the core of an interconnected world characterized by diversity, equity, inclusion, social justice, and well-being for all. NAFSA believes that diversity in our classrooms, our communities, and our workplaces is our strength. We seek to conduct international education in socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable ways.

Values

Our Aspirations

NAFSA aspires to an environment in which every student, scholar, and practitioner seeking the benefits of international education finds a path, and every institution of higher education integrates international perspectives into its teaching, research, and service missions. We aspire to enlightened international relations, globally engaged citizenry, and a more peaceful and just world.

Vision

Our Work

NAFSA leads the way in advocating for a better world through international education. NAFSA serves international educators and their profession, advances international education in institutions of higher education, and promotes international education and the policies that sustain it in the public arena. The association helps define the profession of international education by establishing principles of good practice and providing professional development opportunities. NAFSA encourages networking among professionals, convenes conferences and collaborative dialogues, and promotes research and knowledge creation to strengthen and serve the field.

Mission

Who We Are

NAFSA is the largest and most comprehensive association of professionals committed to advancing international higher education. NAFSA realizes its values, vision, and mission by convening people to advance international education. Based in the United States, we provide high-quality programs, products, services, and physical and virtual meeting spaces for the worldwide community of international educators. As a self-supporting, not-for-profit organization, we depend on effective governance and a strong, increasingly diverse financial foundation. We celebrate innovation and value highly talented volunteer leaders and staff. We are committed to working in a professional and collegial manner and to respecting others—values that are at the heart of international education.

People

Our Strategic Goals (Numbered for reference—are of equal importance.)

The strategic goals that will guide NAFSA’s work are Educate, Advocate, and Innovate.

1. Educate.

NAFSA educates and informs international educators throughout their careers.

NAFSA:

- a. Provides professional development opportunities responsive to the ever-changing needs of the field;
- b. Creates and disseminates knowledge and resources to the field;
- c. Encourages and supports global learning and the integration of global perspectives throughout higher education by furthering comprehensive internationalization;
- d. Identifies critical trends and issues, and champions responses and initiatives that advance international education and shape the field.

2. Advocate.

NAFSA advocates for public policies that lead to a more globally informed, welcoming, and engaged United States.

NAFSA:

- a. Advocates for policies that promote international education as a pillar of U.S. higher education;
- b. Advocates for policies that facilitate access to international education;
- c. Seeks to enhance global competency, foster global competitiveness, and sustain an informed civic culture through U.S. higher education;
- d. Supports the adoption of fair and transparent visa and immigration processes.

3. Innovate.

NAFSA thrives through innovation, cooperation, and effective organization.

NAFSA:

- a. Develops and offers innovative programs, products, and services;
- b. Encourages new paradigms of internationalization that reflect ongoing transformations in higher education and the field of international education.
- c. Supports and promotes connections among stakeholders, partners, and other organizations at the regional, national, and international level to ensure success of the international education field.
- d. Advances diversity, equity, and inclusion in the international education profession.