

International Students in Michigan

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Statistics on International Students

- ◇ 819,644 international students in U.S.
- ◇ Estimated contribution to U.S. economy is \$24 billion
- ◇ 27,000 international students in Michigan
- ◇ Estimated contribution to Michigan economy is \$822.9 million
- ◇ 7,161 international students at MSU (9th largest program in U.S.)
- ◇ Estimated contribution to economy of Greater Lansing is \$250 million
- ◇ Largest sending countries: China, South Korea, India

What is an International Student?

- ◇ In U.S. temporarily for the purpose of study
- ◇ When they apply for a student visa at a Consul abroad, they must:
 - ◇ Demonstrate nonimmigrant intent, show strong ties to their country and provide an address abroad to which they will return
 - ◇ Show evidence of sufficient financial support to meet all their educational and living expenses
 - ◇ Students in some disciplines and from certain countries will experience special security clearances

Perceptions of International Students

- ◆ Best and brightest academic talent
- ◆ Bridges to international understanding; friendship with an international student can be transformational. We can have international experiences in Michigan and not necessary to go abroad to gain a global perspective
- ◆ Possible business networking and helps us make friends in the world
 - ◆ Many come from influential families
 - ◆ Are we ready for them to invest here?
- ◆ Economic exports
- ◆ Risks to national security and they might do us harm

Lansing as a Globally Friendly Community

- ◇ Community Volunteers for International Programs (CVIP)
- ◇ East Lansing Welcomes the World in partnership with MSU
- ◇ Stakeholders group and preparing for cross cultural contact
- ◇ Global Lansing
- ◇ What are the qualities of an internationally friendly community?
 - ◇ Cultural and social connections
 - ◇ ESL support
 - ◇ Transportation with airport, taxis, train and bus service
 - ◇ Health issues

Employment on a Student Visa

- ◇ Permitted to work on campus up to 20 hours per week and full time during vacations
- ◇ Permitted to work off campus with authorization to gain experience in their fields of study. This is known as Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
- ◇ Following graduation, they can undertake 12 months of employment to gain experience in their fields of study. This is known as Optional Practical Training (OPT)
 - ◇ Graduates in STEM disciplines can also request an additional 17 months OPT extension for a total of 29 months of OPT
- ◇ Law allows them to own a business, but they cannot work for it

Special Topics

- ◇ Terrorism and international students
 - ◇ Universities and SEVIS reporting
 - ◇ There will always be risks; no system can guarantee security
- ◇ Government audits and increased scrutiny
- ◇ Talent in the U.S.: 30% of U.S. Nobel Laureates are foreign born
- ◇ When do we want them to stay and when do we want them to go home?
- ◇ Supporting mobility around the world; U.S. immigration law is hindering our ability to retain talented people

Global Talent Retention Initiative (GTRI)

- ◇ <http://www.migtri.org/>
- ◇ Part of Governor Snyder's vision for economic development in Michigan is to retain talented people
- ◇ Global Michigan initiative wants to make Michigan more immigrant friendly and this includes international students
 - ◇ More innovation comes from STEM talent
 - ◇ About 40% of international students pursue STEM majors as contrasted with about 13% of American students
 - ◇ Job creators are not taking jobs away from qualified U.S. workers
- ◇ How can we keep talented international students when U.S. law is stuck in the past?

More GTRI

- ◆ Goal is to educate employers about ways they can legally employ international students
- ◆ Goal is to help connect international students and Michigan employers
- ◆ Goal is to demystify U.S. immigration regulations for international students
- ◆ Goal is to brand Michigan as immigrant friendly to help us attract talent to our universities