



National Career  
Development  
Association

## **NCDA Supports International Students**

**National Career Development Association (NCDA) International Student Services Committee (ISSC)  
October 30, 2020**

As a global organization, NCDA's [mission](#) includes advocacy for practitioners and educators who inspire and empower individuals to achieve their career and life goals. The association supports the NCDA International Student Services Committee (ISSC) in issuing the following statement:

*NCDA joins [NAFSA: Association of International Educators](#) (NAFSA, 202a) and the [National Association of Colleges and Employers](#) (NACE, 2020), as well as several other organizations, in supporting policies which enable all international students to complete their educational programs in the United States and we support the continuation of Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and Optional Practical Training (OPT). NCDA believes international students deserve to benefit from quality education and opportunities to learn, including access to career education and opportunities. Proposed [policy changes](#) would impact the duration of status, international student access to online education, and restrict the eligibility of international students to participate in CPT, OPT, and other career-related opportunities. We advocate for international students who have been faced with significant challenges during this unprecedented time.*

### **International Students Matter**

International students come to the United States with the expectation of gaining a quality education and attaining more career development opportunities. They value the potential growth they can achieve by taking part in our educational systems and economy after graduation, and they have been an asset in many ways to our systems by strengthening our knowledge base, contributing to innovation across all industries and fields. Over one million international students attend U.S. higher education institutions annually and their contributions matter. They bring a significant estimated economic impact of \$41 billion and support more than 450,000 U.S. Jobs (NAFSA, 2019; NAFSA 2020b). Of all the world leaders, 62% have received higher education in the U.S. and 23% of billion-dollar start-up companies in the U.S. were founded or co-founded by a former international student, not to mention their intellectual and cultural contributions to both the United States and beyond (Anderson, 2018; Institute of International Education, 2019; Higher Education Policy Institute, 2019; Luo & Jamieson-Drake, 2013).

### **International Students Need Support From Career Professionals**

International students need and deserve the support of well-qualified career development professionals and their community. As career professionals, we know that the current climate requires our best efforts to educate ourselves and take action in culturally competent and social-justice-oriented ways. We believe that the following resources, strategies, and action steps can empower us to utilize our strengths to become a more visible and active support system for international students at both national and global levels:

- Working collaboratively, NCDA's International Student Services Committee (ISSC) is willing to develop a sustainable action and accountability plan for NCDA to become a more active agent in the international and global career development community. This collaboration is dedicated to decolonization and anti-racism work in our field, supporting diversity and inclusion efforts.
- Explore the NCDA [ISSC sharable COVID-19 resources](#) for working with international students and help make them more visible for career development professionals; consider making contributions to this repository of resources or other similar resources.
- Help promote the NCDA ISSC resource guide, *Resources For Partnering with International Students* (NCDA, 2020), and share it widely to make it accessible for career development and other student services professionals at institutions in the United States.
- Support NCDA to enrich and diversify its [Global Resources](#).
- Encourage NCDA members to participate in committees, such as Government Relations, to understand and participate in policy and advocacy work. Follow NCDA initiatives such as the [Advocacy Updates](#) and respond to [Call for Action](#) alerts.
- Participate in the public comment process for all proposed changes in connection with NAFSA and other organizations; personalize your comments on how a particular policy would negatively impact your institution, organization, and students; visit <https://www.connectingourworld.org/> to urge your member of Congress to speak out about proposed legislation.
- Share and elevate the stories and experiences of how visa and work authorization restrictions have unduly impacted international students
- Revisit and integrate the [Multicultural Career Counseling Competencies](#) (NCDA, 2020) and review the updated [Multicultural and Social Justice Counseling Competencies](#) (AMCD 2015), as well as the American Counseling Association's (ACA) [Advocacy Competencies](#) (ACA 2019).
- Collaborate with organizations such as the American Council on Education ([ACE](#)), NAFSA, NACE, etc., to leverage collective advocacy efforts on behalf of international education and international students.

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