

# U.S. Government Resources Information Guide

## HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY

The internationalization of American university campuses has become an integral aspect of the excellence and dynamism of the U.S. higher education system. Student exchange programs between U.S. and overseas institutions, and research projects that leverage the skills of international teams and host talented foreign students on campus, are part of the fabric of university life across the United States. Sharing American campus culture with foreign students, benefiting from shared research and experience, and giving U.S. students and faculty the opportunity to see the world through study abroad and internationalized campuses builds diversity and cultural awareness among the people, American institutions, and local communities participating in such exchanges.

As more of these opportunities and linkages emerge, deepen, and expand, a number of federal agencies can help your university take advantage of government resources and navigate the government process, and ensure that your institution has the information it needs.

## The U.S. Department of Commerce

- » **U.S. Commercial Service:** As part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Commercial Service offers valuable assistance to American businesses exporting goods and services, including the provision of education for international students. We are part of a global network of trade specialists dedicated to assisting U.S. commercial interests worldwide. Trade specialists at over 100 domestic and over 150 international locations, including partner posts, are happy to help identify trade opportunities and local potential trading partners within their respective regions and industry sectors. To get started, please contact your local U.S. Export Assistance Center, searchable by location at <https://www.export.gov/locations>.
- » **Deemed Exports:** The U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) regulates the export, re-export or transfer of certain technology under the Export Administration Regulations (EAR). This includes many proprietary technologies used in commercial applications, as well as military applications. BIS advises that an export license may be required for foreign nationals to access technology that is regulated under the EAR, in the course of conducting research or otherwise. This is because the release of technology to a foreign national in the United States is deemed to be an export of the technology to the home country of the foreign national. Persons or institutions who plan to release technology to foreign nationals, including foreign nationals visiting the United States on educational visas or coordinating research with U.S. universities, may need to apply for a license from BIS.

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**For further information, including information on exemptions that apply to publicly available technology or technology arising from fundamental research, go to [www.bis.doc.gov](http://www.bis.doc.gov) and choose the Policy Guidance tab, then click on Deemed Exports in the drop-down menu. It is also important to screen foreign organizations, including foreign universities and higher education institutions, against the proscribed parties lists maintained by the U.S. government, to ensure that joint research or other activities do not run afoul of U.S. regulations. To do so, access the Consolidated Screening List at [www.export.gov/article?id=Consolidated-Screening-List](http://www.export.gov/article?id=Consolidated-Screening-List).**



## The U.S. Department of Education

- » **The International Affairs Office** houses an information center to respond to inquiries concerning U.S. education and academic mobility. Questions received include those from U.S. persons interested in working abroad, as well as those from foreign-educated persons who often seek information about how to pursue the recognition of their degree in order to work or pursue further education in the United States. Other inquiries relate to study abroad for U.S. students or studying in the United States for international students.

**More information can be found at <https://sites.ed.gov/international/what-we-do/information-on-u-s-education-and-mobility/>.**

- » **Federal Student Aid (FSA)** administers student aid programs – including grants, loans and *work-study* – that can help students fund their education. The FSA website includes information for students who wish to study abroad or pursue an entire degree program outside the United States, as well as information regarding the eligibility of non-U.S. citizens for student aid.

**More information can be found at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/prepare-for-college/choosing-schools/types/international> and at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/eligibility/non-us-citizens>.**

- » **The International and Foreign Language Education (IFLE) office** administers Title VI (domestic) and Fulbright-Hays (overseas) grant and fellowship programs that strengthen foreign language instruction, area/international studies teaching and research, professional development for educators, and curriculum development at the K-12, graduate, and postsecondary level.

**More information is available at [www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/iegps/index.html](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/iegps/index.html).**

- » **Foreign Gift Reporting Requirement:** All Title IV domestic institutions that offer a bachelor's degree or higher, or that offer a transfer program of not less than two years that is acceptable for credit toward a bachelor's degree, are required to report foreign gifts if the total of all gifts have a value of \$250,000 or more for a calendar year or if the institution is owned or controlled by a foreign source.

**Questions and answers can be found in this “Dear Colleague Letter”:** <http://ifap.ed.gov/dpclletters/GEN0411.html>. **General information can be found at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about/data-center/school/foreign-gifts>.**

## The Federal Bureau of Investigation

- » **The FBI** works with both government and private sector partners every day, including American colleges and universities. The United States is a society of openness and freedom, values especially central to campuses of higher education. Foreign intelligence and non-state actors can take advantage of that openness and use colleges and universities to further their intelligence and operational needs. Universities and researchers should protect their intellectual property and be cognizant that there are dishonest actors and organizations that can take advantage of the environment of sharing on U.S. campuses of higher education. The FBI is actively partnering with universities to assist in those efforts by providing counterintelligence tools and awareness training that will aid in recognizing what is suspicious behavior and how to better protect facilities and information.

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**For additional information or training, contact your local FBI field office, FBI Headquarters at (202) 324-3000 or visit [www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov).**

## Department of Homeland Security U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

- » As part of ICE, **Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)** examines, deters and interdicts threats arising from the movement of people and goods into and out of the United States. With respect to international students, HSI established ICE's Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) and the web-based Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) to collect, maintain and analyze information so that only legitimate nonimmigrant students and exchange visitors gain entry to the United States.
- » **School Fraud:** HSI is committed to safeguarding the integrity of our nation's legal immigration system against fraud and exploitation. Successful partnerships between HSI and local school communities expose fraud that may compromise national security. HSI's collaboration with the school community may prevent individuals posing as students from fraudulently obtaining or maintaining student status.
- » **Partnerships Benefit All:** Information sharing between HSI, schools and students has enhanced strategies for identifying and prosecuting unlawful activity, and has improved schools' management of programs and prevention of students from falling out of status. HSI's investigation of noncompliant schools upholds the integrity of legitimate schools and programs.
- » **How You can Help:** Foreign nationals may view a student visa as a means of immigrating rather than achieving an academic goal. As a school official, you have the responsibility to ensure that the foreign students you enroll intend to be productive students. You may also help identify situations before they become national security concerns.

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**To help ICE prevent criminal exploitation of SEVP, and to improve communication with local HSI special agents, you can assist in identifying students or school officials who intend to harm the United States or its people. If you become suspicious of a school or student's actions, call your local ICE office.**

**To report exploitation of student visa programs, contact your local HSI special agent or call 1-866-DHS-2ICE (1-866-347-2423). More information is available at [www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov).**

**To report national vulnerabilities or national security concerns, contact ICE's Counterterrorism and Criminal Exploitation Unit at [CTCEU@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:CTCEU@ice.dhs.gov).**

## National Science Foundation (NSF)

- » **NSF** is a leading U.S. government funder of basic research in science and engineering at U.S. colleges and universities. NSF supports research in all non-medical fields of S&E as well as training of the U.S. science and engineering workforce. Grants are made to U.S. institutions and support university faculty, postdocs and students to conduct research, including international collaboration when it enhances U.S. research and education. In principle, NSF supports the U.S. side of an international partnership: overseas partners seek funding from their national funding agencies or other sources. Website: [www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov).
- » **Office of International Science and Engineering:** The office offers a number of funding opportunities to encourage international collaboration.
  - **The International Research Experiences for Students (IRES)** supports opportunities for U.S. undergraduate and graduate students to conduct research or research-related professional development activities abroad.  
**More information is available at [www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=12831&org=NSF&sel\\_org=NSF&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=12831&org=NSF&sel_org=NSF&from=fund).**
  - **Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE)** supports cutting edge research partnerships that integrate extensive training opportunities U.S. students and early career researchers.  
**More information is available at [www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=505038](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505038).**

# The U.S. Department of State

has a number of resources to help you, at all levels within your university.

- » **U.S. Citizen Services Overseas:** The Department of State's highest priority is to protect the lives and interests of U.S. citizens overseas through routine and emergency services to Americans at our embassies and consulates around the world. The Bureau of Consular Affairs serves American citizens during their most important moments – births, deaths, disasters, arrests, and medical emergencies.  
**More information can be found at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel.html>.**
- » **Study Abroad for Americans:** The Department of State supports initiatives to expand and diversify U.S. study abroad opportunities for Americans and provides scholarships for more than 7,000 U.S. high school, undergraduate and graduate students and young professionals to go abroad each year through our exchange programs, including Fulbright, Gilman, and Critical Language Scholarships.  
**More information is available at <https://studyabroad.state.gov>.**
- » **International Student Recruitment:** The EducationUSA network promotes U.S. higher education and provides strategic guidance to U.S. institutions seeking to reach international student audiences. The network also offers comprehensive and unbiased information to students interested in U.S. study, including information on State-Department sponsored exchanges for students and faculty.  
**More information is available at [www.educationusa.state.gov](http://www.educationusa.state.gov) and at <https://exchanges.state.gov>.**
- » **Visa Application Process:** The United States supports international education and welcomes foreign students and exchange visitors. Before applying for an F, M, or J visa, students and exchange visitors must be accepted by their schools or program sponsors. There are additional requirements that must be met to qualify for a visa. A consular officer at a U.S. embassy or consulate will make the determination.  
**More information on F, M, or J visas is available at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov).**
- » **The Exchange Visitor Program:** The Office of Private Sector Exchange is responsible for the regulatory and administrative oversight of the Exchange Visitor Program (EVP). The Office drafts and clears all required EVP regulatory documents and Guidance Directives. The Office also reviews and evaluates requests of academic institutions, public and private-sector organizations, and government entities for designation as an EVP sponsor.  

The Office monitors sponsors' compliance with EVP regulations, provides recommendations for program improvement and sanctions sponsors, as appropriate. Additionally, the Office actively collaborates with Department-designated EVP sponsors to help safeguard exchange visitors' health, safety, and welfare through the incident and complaint reporting process.

**More information is available at: <https://j1visa.state.gov>.**
- » **Government-to-Government Science and Technology Agreements (STAs):** The Department of State maintains 58 bilateral umbrella STAs that facilitate a range of international science and technology cooperation.  
**More information is available at [www.state.gov/e/oes/stc/partnerships/index.htm](http://www.state.gov/e/oes/stc/partnerships/index.htm)**
- » **Export controls:** The Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (DDTC) regulates the export and temporary import of defense articles and defense services involving items on the U.S. Munitions List (USML) described in Part 121 of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) in the interest of protecting national security and foreign policy. The USML generally covers items specially designed or modified for military applications, and its 21 categories extend from firearms and protective gear to bombers and fighter jets. The ITAR covers hardware as well as technical data and defense services, but excludes basic research and information that is in the public domain. Under the ITAR, an "export" includes not only an actual shipment or transmission of a defense article out of the United States but also "releasing or otherwise transferring technical data to a foreign person in the United States." It also includes "performing a defense service on behalf of, or for the benefit of, a foreign person, whether in the United States or abroad."
- » The DDTC website, [www.pmdtcc.state.gov](http://www.pmdtcc.state.gov), has a reference library of defense trade policies and updates, including links to the latest version of the ITAR and the USML, a list of debarred parties, sanctioned and embargoed countries, and other useful information.  
**Contact the DDTC Response team with questions at TEL (202) 663-1282 or EMAIL [DDTCResponseTeam@state.gov](mailto:DDTCResponseTeam@state.gov).**
- » **China Policy Briefings:** For leadership from the higher education community planning to travel to China, the Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs (EAP/CM) can provide briefings to the visitors.  
**Contact EAP/CM with questions at TEL (202) 647-6796.**