Understanding International Students’ Journey

Thursday, September 26, 2019
Presenters

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*Assistant Director*
*Global Engagement and Education Abroad*
Agenda

● Overview of International Center
● Follow the International Students
● Challenges and Support
● Q & A
International Center

- International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS)
- Faculty and Staff Immigration Services (FSIS)
- Global Engagement & Education Abroad (GEEA)
  - Peace Corps, Orientation, Peer Advisers
- Compliance, Technology, and Health Insurance
- Office Operations, Front Desk, and Budget Management
# International Students in the U.S.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Total International Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Top 25 Total</td>
<td>251,972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>New York University</td>
<td>17,552</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>University of Southern California</td>
<td>16,075</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Northeastern University - Boston</td>
<td>14,905</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Columbia University</td>
<td>14,615</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Arizona State University - Tempe</td>
<td>13,459</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign</td>
<td>13,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>University of California - Los Angeles</td>
<td>12,017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Purdue University - West Lafayette</td>
<td>11,044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>University of California - San Diego</td>
<td>9,883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Boston University</td>
<td>9,742</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16 University of Michigan 8,442
# International Students Enrolled at U-M

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall 2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total University</strong></td>
<td>46,716</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total International</strong></td>
<td>6,976</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>(Representing 120 countries)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>2106 undergraduate students</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4685 graduate/professional</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>degree</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>185 non candidate for degree</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>International Percentage</strong></td>
<td>14.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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International Students at U-M

Enrollment by country:
- P.R. China: 3342
- India: 927
- South Korea: 484
- Taiwan: 278
- Canada: 262

Enrollment by career:
- Engineering
- Literature, Science & the Arts
- Business Administration
- Architecture & Urban Planning
- Public Health
Steps for an International Student Coming to the U.S.

1 - Student is accepted to University of Michigan.

2 - I-20 is issued by admissions office; it is sent to student.

3 - Student pays SEVIS fee.

4 - Student applies for a visa at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate; be aware of lengthy security checks.

5 - Visa Approved

5 - Visa Denied; Apply Again

6 - Student may enter no more than 30 days before start date on I-20; at Port of Entry receives I-94 card

7 - Student Checks-in at U-M International Center; IC reports arrival to SEVIS
Full Time Enrollment and On Campus Employment

- International Students are required to enroll full-time during academic year in on-campus courses
  - Graduate = 8 credits (GSI/GSRA = 6 credits)
  - Undergraduate = 12 credits
- Eligible to work on campus 20 hrs/week during academic year
  - May work >20 hrs/week during official breaks and vacations
- Need authorization to work off campus
North Korea - All immigrants and nonimmigrants
Venezuela - Certain nonimmigrants government officials and their family members
Iran - All immigrants and nonimmigrants, EXCEPT F, J and M visa holders (extra scrutiny)
Libya - All immigrants and those entering as tourists or business travelers
Syria - All immigrants and nonimmigrants
Yemen - All immigrants and those entering as tourists or business travelers
Somalia - Immigrants (and nonimmigrants subject to extra scrutiny)
Immigration Environment

- Visa Delays and Denials
- OPT Application Window/Adjudication Timeline
- Request for Evidence and Notice of Intent to Deny/F-1 Physical Presence Requirement and Maintenance of Status
- Unlawful Presence Policy
Immigration Environment: The Effect on International Students

● Holistic Approach to working with international students
  ○ “Whole person”
    ■ Stressors unique to being an international students
    ■ Stressors unique to being a student in a particular school
● International Center is a source for information and support
  ○ Walk-In Advising Hours
  ○ Appointments
  ○ On-Call Advisors
Challenges as an international student

- Homesickness
- Loss of support systems
- Lack of meaningful relationships
- Language difficulties
- U.S. immigration regulatory restrictions
- New approaches to learning
- Changing sense of identity
- Unrealistic expectations from family & self
- Financial problems
- Difficulties in home country
- New ways of doing things
Stages of Cultural Adaptation

Entry:
- Emotional high point
- Initial adjustment
- Critical low point
- Confronting deeper issues
- Anticipating departure

Re-entry:
- Adapting & assimilating
- Re-entry adjustment
- Anticipating Return home
International students likely to experience...

- Easily angered/feeling misunderstood
- Irritability
- Frustration with the unfamiliar
- Unexplainable stress or sadness
- Depression
- Stomach ache / headaches
- Excessive sleepiness
- Boredom
- Lack of motivation
- Overeating / loss of appetite
- Social withdrawal
- Extreme homesickness
Ways to Support International Students

- Look for signs of depression (suddenly withdrawn, sudden changes in hygiene, agitation, changes in appetite/weight). Refer the student to CAPS and walk them over to the office if mentioning signs of hopelessness/death.
- If student is not attending classes/work, request a wellness check through DPSS/Dean of Students.
- Learn students’ names, and try to pronounce them properly or use the preferred name they give you. Not sure how? Ask!
- Be explicit about expectations for tasks/assignments.
- Consider your cultural references when giving examples in classroom/workshops/events.
- Find different ways for participation in classroom/workshop settings.
- Allow students to volunteer as cultural ambassadors for their own country; do not assume they are comfortable doing so.
Pre-arrival Guide for New International Students

Applying for a U.S. Visa
Before making travel arrangements, you will need to obtain an appropriate U.S. visa.

Searching for Housing
The earlier you start looking for housing, the more options you will have.

Exploring Orientation Workshops and Social Events
Identify and attend the workshops and events which are beneficial for you.

Understanding Mandatory Immigration Check-in
Learn about the basic immigration rules in order to maintain your legal status in the U.S.

Reviewing International Health Insurance
Learn how health insurance works, what is covered and what is not covered.

Getting to Ann Arbor from Detroit Metro Airport (DTW)
Discover the best way to get to campus.
The China Pre-Departure Orientations are designed to help students and their family members gain valuable information about the University of Michigan, which will include, but is not limited to:

- Traveling to the United States
- Immigration/Visa Information
- Health Insurance and Wellness Services
- Housing Information
- Banking Information
- Cultural Adjustment Tips
- Tips for Academic Success
- Job/Internship information
● Mandatory immigration check-ins
● Workshops
  ○ Welcome to UM
  ○ Getting Settled
  ○ Health and Wellness
  ○ Cultural Adjustment
  ○ Employment
● Social events
Support Beyond Orientation

- Monthly Events:
  - International Coffee Hour
  - Birthday Celebration
  - IC + CAPS Lunch Series for International Students
  - 60 Minutes Around the Globe
  - Lunch and Learn

- Cultural Excursions
- Meet, Eat, and American Life (MEAL) @ Michigan
- International Center Grant Fund
- Intercultural Leadership Seminar
- International Center Student Council
- Workshops (e.g. Navigating U.S. job search, H-1B, Permanent Residency, etc)
- Various U.S. government agencies (e.g. Social Security Administration, MI Secretary of State, MI Department of Treasury)
- Weekly newsletter for students and scholars
Q & A

Evaluation

International Center:

🌐 internationalcenter.umich.edu
📍 1500 Student Activities Building
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✉️ icenter@umich.edu