Where is Immigration and Exchange Policy Headed in the United States?

Ilir Zherka
Executive Director
The Alliance for International Exchange promotes the growth and impact of exchange programs and the effectiveness of its members.
Agenda

- Budget

- Political Context

- Strategy and Engagement
Budget
FY2020 omnibus bill (signed December 20): $730.7 million

- 4.3% increase over FY2019 enacted level: $700.9 million

For comparison FY2020:

- Administration request: $309.6 million
- House bill: $730 million
- Senate bill: $735.7 million
FY2021 Request

- Proposed 57.6% cut to educational and cultural exchange programs compared to FY2020 enacted level
  - Proposed $310 million vs. $730.7 million enacted

- Justification
  - The FY2021 request “aligns resources with current foreign policy priorities as outlined in the U.S. National Security Strategy. ECA appropriated resources are prioritized for countries, partners, and activities that advance U.S. foreign policy objectives and emerging Administration and Departmental priorities.”
DOS Exchange Program Funding Requests FY2010-2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Budget Request</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY10</td>
<td>633.2</td>
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<td>FY20</td>
<td>309.6</td>
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<td>FY21</td>
<td>310</td>
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DOS Exchange Program Funding FY2010-2020

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY</th>
<th>Budget Request (Millions USD)</th>
<th>Enacted Level (Millions USD)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY10</td>
<td>633.2</td>
<td>635</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY11</td>
<td>633.2</td>
<td>598.8</td>
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<tr>
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<td>637.1</td>
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<td>602.5</td>
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<td>562.7</td>
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FY2020 Appropriations Engagement

- Advocacy Day and Congressional reception
- Exchange Week in the District
- Meetings with Alliance federally funded members and appropriators
- Alliance submitted testimonies to Senate and House committees supporting exchange programs funding for FY2020
FY2020 Appropriations Letters

- **House letter - Rep. Hank Johnson (D-GA)**
  - 115 signers (112 Ds, 3 Rs)
  - Request: Highest possible funding level for DOS exchanges in FY2020

- **Senate letter - Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ)**
  - 33 signers (31 Ds, 2 Is)
  - Request: Maintain FY2019 funding level for DOS exchanges in FY2020

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United States Senate

Washington, DC 20510

April 26, 2019

The Honorable Lindsay Graham
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
Senate Committee on Appropriations
133 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
Senate Committee on Appropriations
128 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Leahy:

Thank you for your continued support of U.S. Department of State educational and cultural exchange programs, which are a proven and cost-effective way for the United States to remain internationally competitive, develop American leaders, engage current and future international leaders, and promote American values. These programs support the global engagement that is critical to our country’s prosperity and security. We request that you continue Congress’s long tradition of support for State Department’s educational and cultural exchange programs by maintaining the Fiscal Year 2019 enacted level in Fiscal Year 2020.

With Congress’ support, a range of State Department exchange programs connect emerging leaders, entrepreneurs, youth, educators, and athletes from the United States to their counterparts in more than 140 countries around the world, dramatically increasing America’s global reach. Exchanges are a key instrument in the U.S. foreign policy tool box and essential to strengthening U.S. global leadership, while building respect and partnerships based on shared interests and mutual trust around the world. Results repeatedly show that participants visiting the United States through exchange programs return to their home countries with a better impression of our country, the American people, and our values. U.S. ambassadors consistently rank exchange programs among the most useful catalysts for long-term political change and mutual understanding.

To date, there are more than one million alumni of State Department exchange programs, including hundreds of world leaders, Pulitzer Prize winners, and Nobel Laureates. According to the State Department, more than 370 current or former heads of government, 60 representatives to the United Nations, and 11 heads of international organizations have been on a State Department exchange program. Support from Congress allows the State Department to strategically align its programs with key U.S. foreign policy interests and to facilitate exchange experiences for more than 55,000 American and international exchange participants each year, including:
Context
Political Environment

- Immigration – recent issues
  - Travel ban expanded
  - Changes to use of “public charge”
  - Wall funding

- Impeachment
  - Appropriations not likely impacted

- Election
  - Political priorities usually impacts requests
  - Continuing resolutions likely
## Worldwide Non Immigrant Visa Refusal Rates by DOS*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Issued</th>
<th>Refused</th>
<th>Total Workload</th>
<th>Waived/Overcome</th>
<th>Refusal Rate</th>
<th>Adjusted Refusal Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY13</td>
<td>534,320</td>
<td>160,168</td>
<td>694,488</td>
<td>66,995</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY14</td>
<td>595,569</td>
<td>173,062</td>
<td>768,631</td>
<td>68,140</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY15</td>
<td>644,233</td>
<td>212,018</td>
<td>856,251</td>
<td>70,185</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY16</td>
<td>471,728</td>
<td>246,614</td>
<td>718,342</td>
<td>64,449</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY17</td>
<td>393,573</td>
<td>215,058</td>
<td>608,631</td>
<td>68,757</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY18</td>
<td>362,929</td>
<td>195,187</td>
<td>558,116</td>
<td>67,850</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Provided by University & College Intensive English Programs*
Strategies for Engagement
Role as Advocate

- Develop relationships with decision and opinion makers
- Educate them about your issue
- Influence public policy / agenda setting – let them know what is important
- Become your congressional office’s go-to resource for your issue
- Be a voice for international exchange programs – advocate a position
ECA Functional Bureau Strategy

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Functional Bureau Strategy 2018–2022

- Advance American foreign policy objectives
- Increase Americans’ global competitiveness
- Counter disinformation and radicalization
- Encourage strong civil society institutions
- Achieve greater efficiency in ECA operations
Participants gained improved understanding and appreciation for American culture

How did your opinions change regarding the following?
NAFSA International Student Economic Value Tool

The United States of America
Benefits from International Students

Total Contribution
$36.9 billion

Number of Jobs Created or Supported
450,351

International students studying at U.S. colleges and universities contribute $36.9 billion to the U.S. economy and support 450,351 jobs.

For every seven internal students enrolled, three U.S. jobs are created and supported by spending occurring in the higher education, accommodation, dining, retail, transportation, telecommunications and health insurance sectors.

The economic contributions of international students are in addition to the immeasurable academic and cultural value these students bring to our campuses and local communities. For a more detailed analysis by state and congressional district level, access NAFSA's International Student Economic Value Tool at www.nafsa.org/economicvalues.

CONTACT
Rachel Banke | Director, Public Policy
302.651.3899 | rbanke@nafsa.org

NOTES: Enrollment and dollar totals include data from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. They are not listed, as the U.S. Department of Commerce does not include them in the datasets and for our data analysis.

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE FACT SHEET

Each year, New Hampshire businesses host international college students and graduates participating in the Department of State’s J-1 visa Summer Work Travel, Intern, Trainee, Au Pair, and Camp Counselor programs. This collaboration offers myriad diplomacy and national security benefits to our country, and significant economic benefits — including vital tax revenue — to communities across New Hampshire.

**Economic Impact of Summer Work Travel Participants:**
$13.8 million

*Source: Summer Work Travel (SWT) Program Review by Exchange Facts, August 2016*

**Economic Impact of Intern and Trainee Participants:**
$2.8 million

*Source: Intern and Trainee Exchange Program Review by Exchange Facts, June 2017*

**Prominent Host Communities:**
Hampton, Laconia, Moultonborough, North Conway, Portsmouth

**Prominent Host Employers:**
Lafayette Hotels Nordic Village Resort
Loom Mountain
Mountain View Grand Resort and Spa
Story Land

**International Students in the State:**
4,391

*Source: U.S. Department of State, 2016*

**American Students Abroad:**
1,647

*Total number of U.S. Study Abroad Students enrolled through institutions in the state, 2016/2017. Source: Open Doors 2018*

**Total Number of Participants:**
- **Au Pair**
  74
- **Camp Counselor**
  1120
- **Intern**
  114
- **Summer Work Travel**
  2611
- **Trainee**
  45

*Source: U.S. Department of State, 2016*
Opportunities to Engage Internally

- Identify your Audience / Define your Community
- Gather Data to Support Your Story
- Engage with Governmental Relations/Affairs to Educate and Influence
Partner with the Local Community
Exchange Day

- First Monday of August every year – Aug. 3, 2020
- 2019: 143 activities in 38 states led by 38 organizations
- Participants and hosts share cultural diversity and American customs and give back to their communities
- Events include food, an activity, and giving back to the community
International Education Week

- November 18-22, 2019

- A joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education

- Promotes programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences

- Alliance facilitates member engagement during IEW
  - IIE: “Meet a Fulbrighter”
  - Cenet: Student Recognition Ceremony
  - Hostelling International USA: Travel Workshops
People for International Exchange

- New initiative
  - Identify stakeholders (non-Alliance members)
  - Share information
  - Involve in local engagement
  - Facilitate collective advocacy

- If interested in participating, please contact:
  - Selena Coles, Communications Assistant
    - Scoles@alliance-exchange.org