



FASEB Statement on Contributions of Foreign Scholars to the U.S Biomedical Research Enterprise

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), a coalition of 22 biological and biomedical societies representing 110,000 individual scientists, is deeply concerned about the administration's recent actions affecting international scholars studying and working in the United States (U.S.). This included abrupt termination of visas for several thousand lawfully admitted students without cause or due process and failing to provide proper notification to the individual or their institution. Press reports and information revealed during legal proceedings indicated the administration re-instated the visas for many of the affected individuals and is drafting a new policy to evaluate the ability of foreign students to continue their studies in the U.S.

Data from the National Science Foundation (NSF) 2023 Survey of Earned Doctorates and the Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering 2022 [demonstrate](#) that approximately one-third of the current graduate student population in science are temporary visa holders. Similarly, over half of all postdocs in science are non-U.S. citizens or permanent residents. NSF data from 2023 also indicate over 75 percent of all doctoral graduates in biological and biomedical sciences chose to remain in the U.S for subsequent employment in a postdoctoral position (65.8 percent), in industry (27.1 percent), or academia (3.6 percent).

The NSF Science and Engineering Indicators 2019 report noted that faster growth is projected in science and engineering employment relative to overall employment through 2026, highlighting the continuing need for a diverse and highly trained STEM workforce and the importance of welcoming international scholars to work alongside their U.S colleagues. This sentiment was also expressed in the National Science Board Vision 2030 report which stated, "to lead in science and engineering and remain globally competitive, the U.S must be a STEM talent powerhouse that uses a two-pronged strategy of expanding domestic talent while continuing to attract and retain global talent."

FASEB appreciates the contributions of international scholars in advancing scientific discovery. For decades, graduate students and postdoctoral scholars from around the world have played a critical role in the U.S. research enterprise. They are already subject to extensive vetting processes before being granted a visa. Therefore, we strongly urge the administration to seek input from and meaningfully engage with stakeholders prior to developing and implementing any new policies related to the provision of visas for international scholars.