Immigration reform: 
Increase the return on federal investments in education and research by expanding opportunities for international graduate students

Current Immigration Policy Drives US-educated Innovators Overseas

- Higher education in the United States, particularly in the STEM fields, attracts some of the brightest graduate students from across the world. In fact, **36% of all science and engineering graduate degrees** were awarded to international students in 2011 [1].
- These students go on to **drive innovation, found companies, create jobs, and win Nobel Prizes**.
- However, **current immigration policy creates unnecessary barriers** that prevent many international students from obtaining green cards (permanent residency), limiting their post-graduation contributions to innovation and job creation in the United States.

Economic Incentives for Immigration Reform

Retaining highly-educated human resource assets drives **innovation and job creation**.

- **76% of patents** from the United States’ top ten patent generating universities had **at least one international graduate student inventor** in 2011, and 99% of these patents were in STEM fields. [3]
- Immigrant-founded companies generated **over $52 billion in sales** and **employ over 450,000 workers**. Among these job-creating immigrants who founded US-based technology and engineering businesses, **more than half initially came to America to study**. [4]

Maintain America’s Competitive Advantage

Other countries, such as Chile and Canada, have created programs to capitalize on all the innovators and entrepreneurs trained in the United States but cannot find a way to stay [5].

Impact of MIT Graduates

~30% of MIT international students go on to found companies.

**Locations of companies founded by MIT “foreign-student” alumni**

United States: 42%, Europe: 30%, Latin America: 15%, Asia: 13%

2,340/5,000 of these firms are headquartered in the US.

These firms generate **$16B** and employ **101,500 people**. [2]

We urge you to support legislation that:

- Authorizes dual intent for student visa holders;
- Increases the number of employment-based (particularly H-1B) visas available to advanced degree holders educated in the United States;
- Streamlines the visa and immigration process for graduate students.
Immigration reform:
Increase the return on federal investments in education and research by expanding opportunities for international graduate students

Who we are:

MIT Graduate Student Council
Legislative Action Subcommittee
http://gsc.mit.edu/committees/arc/lasc/

National Association of Graduate-Professional Students
Legislative Concerns Committee
http://nagps.org/about-us

References:


Additional Resources:
