

Chinese students – safe under Trump?

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Picture source: www.nbcnews.com/storyline/inauguration-2017

After Donald. J. Trump officially became the president of the United States of America on January 20th, 2017, he proposed several policies to “Make America Great Again” in his way.

So, will Trump’s policies have any effect on international students at PRISMS?

The answer is no.

China is not on the “banned-country” list, so Chinese students here should be safe – despite Trump’s ban on immigrants.

A lot of Trump’s policies deal with foreign affairs. Some of them involve the economy, military, and immigration, such as “enforcing stronger protections against Chinese hackers and counterfeit goods,” or “suspending, temporarily, immigration from some of the most dangerous and volatile regions of the world that have a history of exporting terrorism” etc. Those policies bring a

huge change to the economy. An example is the exchange rate increasing between CNY and USD.

As people know, after Trump rode into office, he banned refugees and citizens from seven nations with mainly Muslim populations from entering the USA. However, as regards international students coming to America to study, Trump takes a positive position.

During the [Republican debate on CNBC](#) on Oct. 28, 2016, Trump said, "I'm in favor of people coming into this country legally. And you know what? They can have it any way you want. You can call it visas, you can call it work permits, you can call it anything you want. ... As far as the visas are concerned, if we need people, it's fine. They have to come into this country legally. We have a country of borders. We have a country of laws. We have to obey the laws. It's fine if they come in, but they have to come in legally."

James Allen, a co-founder of Passport Scholars, who works with international students in the U.S., predicted that the situation in America will have "no negative effect" on international students. Trump does not mind people entering the US as long as they do so legally. Trump feels, "fortunate to have motivated students from all over the world." Parke Muth, an expert on politics who served as Associate Dean of International Admission at the University of Virginia, suggests, "given the contradictory nature of Mr. Trump's remarks, and the often conflicting nature of economic forces that come into play the situation facing international students and families is anything but secure, Mr. Trump will forgo his anti-international rhetoric and make more room for international students to enrich this country intellectually and culturally." Both of the experts have a message to international students: "You are welcome to study in our country".

At PRISMS, most of the international students come from China. To find out whether Chinese students would be affected, I interviewed Dr. Laurie Hochstetler, our history teacher, who is an expert on politics.

"Right now the travel ban does not affect our students because our students do not come from the affected countries. If we were in a situation where

China got added to the list, we may expect that our students most definitely would be affected.”

All in all, China is not on the “banned country” list so Chinese students are safe at PRISMS. What could affect us may only be the increase in the exchange rate. However, the future is still unclear and we should still keep an eye on the international situation.