

While I applaud USCIS in their efforts to provide faster and better, updated service, I would like comment in particular on the additional hardship the I-765 fee increase will impose on international students in the U.S. We have already put up many barriers to international exchange and this is one more instance to make international students think twice about selecting the United States as their study destination. We already charge them a SEVIS fee, visa fees (for some nationalities this is an ordeal they must endure at each trip home), subject them to fingerprinting and close scrutiny at the Port of Entry, report on them more closely than any other group entering the U.S. (although they are only around 3% of the non-immigrants who enter each year), and for the most part do not let them work part-time off campus as the UK and Australia now allow. There are many programs of study that require an Optional Practical Training work authorization as part of the degree requirements, and some of these are repeated with additional EAD cards to apply for. These students are already contributing huge dollar amounts to institutions for their tuition and fees, plus millions more to our economy for housing and living expenses, not to mention the families who come to visit and bring their tourist dollars with them. Many students have families sacrificing to provide an education for their child, and can't even afford to travel home for vacations. The \$180 fee has been difficult for many students, and such a drastic increase will make that struggle much worse.

We need to be promoting international exchange in every way we can since it provides us allies in the world who take the best of the U.S. back to their home countries and have the opportunity to tell their citizens about us as people, not just a government or nation. I would like to propose that there be a reduced I-765 fee for legitimate degree-seeking students, especially those who must obtain an EAD for degree completion requirements.

Sally D. Moorehead
Assistant Director, International Programs
The University of Tampa
401 W. Kennedy Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33606
Phone: (813) 253-3333, X3659
Fax: (813) 258-7449