

Why Are We Losing Our Foreign Students?

The New York Times

December 10, 2005 Saturday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2005 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 5; Editorial Desk; Pg. 14

Length: 196 words

Body

To the Editor:

"Imported Brains" (editorial, Dec. 3) sounds the alarm on the falling number of foreign students in American universities.

You do not mention one important reason for the decline in enrollments: the tarnished reputation of the American political system among international students.

More than half of the foreign undergraduates I have recently advised on their choice of graduate school told me that while they think American universities are the best, they were not applying to them because they could not countenance continuing to study in a country they perceive as having lost its respect for human rights.

Top on their list of concerns is the C.I.A.'s practice of abducting and "rendering" suspects to other countries, with no due process, where they may be tortured.

For decades, our universities have been the envy of the world, in large part because of the number and quality of the students they attract from abroad. These great institutions will lose that status unless we can restore confidence in the integrity of our government.

David Martyn

St. Paul, Dec. 3, 2005

The writer is an assistant professor of German studies at Macalester College.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Document-Type: Letter

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Why Are We Losing Our Foreign Students?

Subject: **FOREIGN STUDENTS** (93%); **STUDENTS** & **STUDENT** LIFE (92%); COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (90%); **STUDENT** DEMOGRAPHICS (90%); COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS (78%); GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS (73%); WRITERS (73%); DUE PROCESS (72%); HUMAN RIGHTS (70%)

Industry: COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (90%); COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS (78%); GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS (73%); WRITERS (73%)

Person: David Martyn

Geographic: SAINT PAUL, MN, USA (67%); UNITED STATES (90%)

Load-Date: December 10, 2005

End of Document