

American University, Washington, DC Resources for U.S. High School Counselors with Students on F, J, & Diplomatic Visas

Developed by:

Evelyn Levinson, Director of International Admissions
2015 NAFSA Award Recipient for International Enrollment
Management
levinson@american.edu



Are you faced with any of the following?

- **Dramatic increase** in international students (F, J and diplomatic visas) at your high school in the past few years
- **Limited resources** for support & training services (ESL, designated director of international students, housing, SEVP/SEVIS compliance, cross-cultural sensitivity training, teaching non-native speakers)
- Managing international **student and family expectations**
- Understanding U.S. universities' **differing admission requirements** for international applicants
- Helping international high school students overcome **challenges &** market their **strengths**



You are not alone!

According to the IIE Center for Academic Mobility Research and Impact
(<https://www.iie.org/Research-and-Insights/Publications/Globally-Mobile-Youth-2013-2016>):

- The number of international secondary students in the U.S. more than tripled from 2004 to 2016
- 72% (almost 60,000) F-1 students in U.S. high schools as of 2016 plan to enroll in U.S. higher education institutions after secondary studies
- Top 6 sending countries of origin for F-1 students in 2016: China, South Korea, Vietnam, Mexico, Japan & Canada

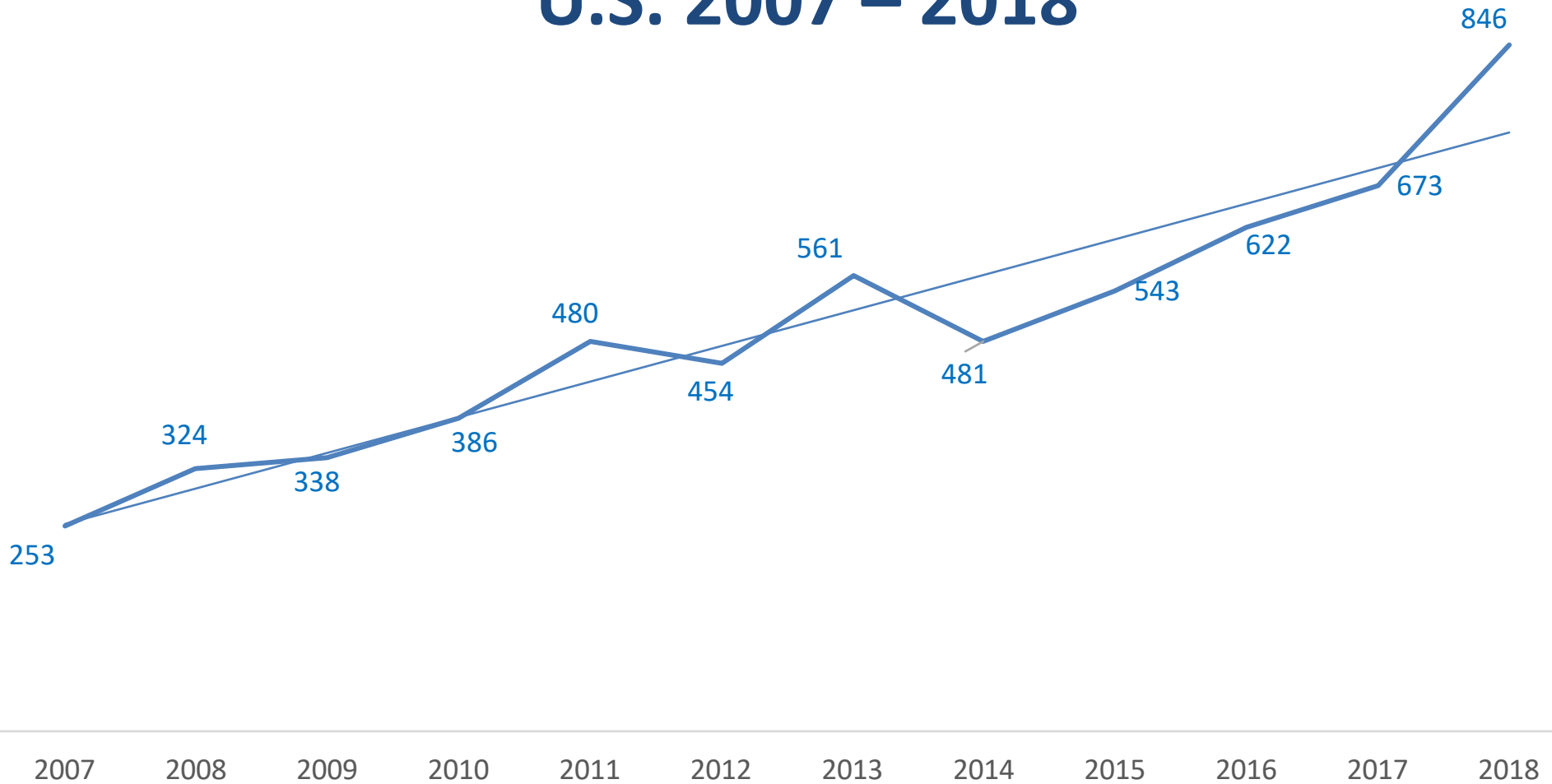


Where do Int'l Secondary Students Study ?

- **By type of school, 2016:** 94% study in private high schools (boarding schools, schools with religious affiliations, private day schools with home stays)
- **Top 10 U.S. states, 2016:** California, NY, Massachusetts, Florida, Pennsylvania, Texas, Connecticut, NJ, Virginia, Michigan
- **By host countries, 2016:** U.S. (81,981), Canada (44,510), UK (27,633), Australia (22,265)



AU International Applicants **Inside** the U.S. 2007 – 2018



Top Five Factors in the Admission Decision for International Students (per 2014 & 2015 Admission Trend Surveys)

1 – English proficiency exam scores

2 - Grades in college prep courses

3 – Grades in all subjects

4 – Curriculum strength (rigor)

5 – Admission test scores



What application components most predict academic success of int'l students at a U.S. institution?

(Per survey of 85 universities for NAFSA 2015 presentation, Anne Corriveau)

55% - GPA

50% - Academic Rigor

50% - TOEFL/IELTS

18% - Standardized Testing

9% - Essay

Additional indicators for AU:

- Number of years at the U.S. high school
- Which year student transitioned to U.S. (9th/10th/11th) & transition ease
- Rigor of current & previous secondary school systems
- Email/phone communications with admissions officer
- Grades in English subjects on transcripts
- ESL taken or not
- Consistency of English proficiency subscores
- Leadership, community service, involvement



Our Student Body



Undergraduates: 7,380

Graduate and Law: 5,477

Total: 13,858

**Over 1,500 (11%) international students
+ U.S. citizen “Global Nomads”
from 126 countries call AU home.**

Application Options

Early Decision I:

- Deadline: November 15
- Notification: December 31

Early Decision II:

- Deadline: January 15
- Notification: February 15

Regular Decision:

- Deadline: January 15
- Notification: April 1



• Application Process

A complete application packet for F-1 & J-1 students applying from high schools inside the U.S. must include:

1. Completed Common Application form (including essay, CV/resume, and optional supplement)
2. Academic records for 9th-12th grades (official transcripts for ALL institutions attended and certified English translations if applicable)
3. Two academic letters of recommendation
4. Proof of English proficiency (details coming up!)
5. AU Certification of Finances (CFIS) form confirming US\$66,717 minimum
6. Bank letter (not bank statement/proof of salary/bond or stock value/ property value) showing at least US\$66,717 (or equivalent)
7. SAT/ACT scores (if not Test Optional) – more on this coming up!
8. US\$70 application fee (no waivers)

www.american.edu/admissions/international/internationalinstructions.cfm



- **Who Does NOT need to show finances?**
- Any **non** F or J international student (A-1, A-2, H-2, G-4, L-2, O, N, etc. These students may be considered for merit-based scholarships but are NOT eligible for need-based U.S. financial aid. Families should have a 4-four fiscal plan in place. For tips see www.american.edu/admissions/international/prospective-finance.cfm
- Permanent Resident (P-R) or “Green Card” holder
- Pending Permanent Resident (PPR)
- Undocumented students
- Deferred Action (DACA)
- Political Asylees



• Proving English Proficiency

- Required for all F-1 and J-1 students by Department of Homeland Security in order to receive AU I-20 or DS-2019

Via Testing:

- SAT Critical Reading score of 530 or higher (taken before 3/1/2016), or SAT Reading Test sub-score of 29 or higher (taken after 3/1/2016)
- ACT English Score – 23 or above
- iBT TOEFL of 80 or above with each subscore >20 (90 iBT preferred)
- IELTS of 6.5 or above with each subscore >6.0
- PTE of 53

Or.....



• Proving English Proficiency

- Required for all F-1 and J-1 students by Department of Homeland Security in order to receive AU I-20 or DS-2019

Via Curriculum:

- Four years of study (grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 or equivalent) in U.S.-accredited or IB secondary schools inside or outside the U.S. where English is the only medium of instruction AND no ESL courses have been taken.
- Four years of study (grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 or equivalent) in the following countries* or in the educational systems of these countries* around the world/regardless of location where English is the only medium of instruction AND no ESL courses have been taken.

**English speaking countries include: US, UK, Ireland, Scotland, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada (except Quebec).*



- **SAT/ACT or Test Optional? It depends...**

- The SAT or ACT is required of all applicants, including international students, who are graduating high school inside the U.S. unless student chooses to be considered “Test Optional” for standardized testing.
- “Test Optional” does not refer to proof of English proficiency.
- F-1 & J-1 students must still prove English proficiency through TOEFL, IELTS, etc.
- “Test Optional” does not put students at a disadvantage for admissions consideration, as long as other application components are strong.

When to consider “Test Optional” for your international student:

- Less than 4 years in an all-English curriculum
- Very recent transition to English-language curriculum
- Completed many ESL classes at a U.S. high school
- TOEFL, IELTS, PTE scores are at the low end of AU’s minimum requirements.



Undergraduate Cost Guide Estimate

Academic year 2019-2020 (based on 9 months), subject to approximate 3-4% increase for each academic year

\$ 47,640	Tuition
\$ 547	Mandatory fees
\$ 9,996	Room/double occupancy
\$ 4,884	Board (meal plan)
\$ 800	Books
\$ 1,750	Health Insurance
\$ 1,100	Personal

US\$66,717 **Estimated Total**



Undergraduate Scholarships for International 1st-Year Students

- Limited and competitive
- Renewable annually if student maintains required GPA
- Merit (not need) based
- Students must demonstrate full minimum amount of US\$66,717 on AU CFIS form & bank letter by application deadline.
- Partial: \$8,000-\$20,000 per academic year (estimated). Similar scholarship award amounts are predicted for 2019.
- No separate application or process is required.

AU Emerging Global Leader Scholarship (AU EGLS)

- Covers all billable expenses to AU (approximately \$62,000/year) for ONE outstanding international first-year freshman student who is dedicated to positive civic and social change.
- www.american.edu/admissions/international/au-egl-scholarship.cfm



Two AU Resources for Financial Planning!

Includes information for international students on F and J visas

- Tips, strategies and guidance for prospective students and families:
www.american.edu/admissions/international/prospective-finance.cfm
- Ideas and resources for long-term financial planning:
www.american.edu/admissions/international/admitted-finance.cfm



Resources for Counselors! – Part 1

www.nafsa.org

- State, regional and annual conferences
- Member Interest Group (MIG) for secondary school counselors
- ISSS Knowledge Community (KC): F, J, SEVIS, DSO training & updates
- International Enrollment Management KC: Credentials, ESL, admissions trends, IEM strategies, resources (www.nafsa.org/iem)

www.iie.org/Research-and-Insights/Publications/Globally-Mobile-Youth-2013-2016

Charting New Pathways to Higher Education: International Secondary Students in the U.S.

www.nacacnet.org

- Engage with Affiliate ACACs
- International Student Programming at NACAC conferences and fairs



Resources for Counselors! – Part 2

www.american.edu/admissions/international/counselor-resources.cfm

www.internationalacac.org

www.cois.org (CIS)

www.wes.org

www.boardingschools.com (TABS)



QUESTIONS?

Thank you and good luck!



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC