

UNDERSTANDING INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FLOWS: WHERE WE HAVE BEEN AND WHERE WE ARE GOING

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Agenda



- Terminology
- What is international education?
- Recent history of student visa system in US
- Effect of 9/11 on international students in the US
- How did other countries react to 9/11?
- Australian example
- Working towards a US national strategy of international education

Terminology



- Undocumented alien: entered the US without inspection.
- SEVIS: Student Exchange Visitor Information System
- F-1 student visa holder: degree seeking student
- J-1 student visa holder: exchange student
- Linda: awesome

International Education



- Intercultural Communication
- Education Abroad
 - ▣ Service learning
- International Students & Scholars
 - ▣ ESL students
 - ▣ Foreign Credential Evaluation
 - ▣ Recruitment

Foreign Students in the US



- Foreign students started to come to the US in the later part of the 1800s, but no data at that point.
- 1911: (start of data gathering) 4,856 students
- 1949: 26,759
- 1959: 48,486
- 1969: 135,000
- 1979: 286,340

A Brief History. . . .



- 1979 Iranian Hostage Crisis
 - ▣ Iranian students took over US Embassy in Tehran and held 60 US hostages for 444 of days.
 - ▣ Iranian students in the US were also then seen as terrorists
 - ▣ US government had to make a plan for what is the best way to “deal” with the Iranian students here
 - All Iranians required to do special registration

A Brief History. . . 1983-1988



- Immigration and Naturalization Service creates a paper based School Reporting Program
 - Initial attendance
 - Work off-campus
 - Extensions of stay
 - Adding dependents

A Brief History. . . 1993-1999



- World Trade Center Bombing in NYC in 1993
 - ▣ Truck with explosives is driven into WTC
 - ▣ One of the those arrested who was a part of this scheme was on a student visa

Result:

INS Answers: Coordinated Interagency Partnership Regulating International Students (CIPRUS)

Piloted in the SE and schools had almost convinced INS that this was not a good use of resources when. . . .

A Brief History. . . . 9/11



- One of the 19 terrorists behind the bombing of the World Trade Center in NYC was on a student visa.
- INS response:
 - ▣ Using CIPRUS as an example, created SEVIS and all schools must comply. This was a part of the US PATRIOT Act on 10/26/2001 and all schools had until 1/30/2003 to comply.

Ramifications of 9/11



- Need visa interview in order to enter the US as a student.
- Media around the world showed the backlash against “foreigners” in the US=not a welcoming place.
- Visa application and SEVIS fee
- SEVIS as a monitoring system
- All led to perception that it was not as easy to study in the US as before 9/11

Stats on international students



F-1 visa issuance declined dramatically after 9/11 and did not recover until 2007.

In 2008/2009: 671,616 international students studying in the US which was a 8% increase over the year 2007/2008.

3.7% of all students in the US are international students

Top countries:

India, China, S. Korea, Canada, and Japan.

How Did the World Respond?



- Opened up their borders to take the international students who no longer could or wanted to go to the US
- United Kingdom, Canada and Australia marketed and recruited these students
- Created policies and systems that made it easy for students to enter and stay for work
- Huge increase in the number of students going to these countries.

Australia as an example



- Branch of the federal government devoted to international education: Australia Education International.
- Education is third largest export behind coal and iron ore.
- 36 universities, but many schools that would be similar to our trade or vocation schools called VET (vocational educational training)

Educational Tour in 2008



- Educational Tour in 2008
 - Idea of student service different than US
 - Already thought of themselves as diverse, multicultural, global: year away after high school to travel.
 - What was the student experience like for an international student?
 - What was the general public thinking about the increased number of foreigners in Australia?

Indian Students Attacked



Throughout 2009 Indian students were attacked and one was killed.

Created diplomatic rift between India and Australia because Indian students felt that the attacks were racially motivated, but the Australian government denies any evidence of this and states the attacks are purely criminal.

As reported in the Australian Daily News and Analysis a “recent study forecasts a 20% drop in Indian students for 2010.”

Comparisons for 2007



- US: 623,805 int'l students = 3.5% of total higher education enrollment
- Australia = 21.1%
- United Kingdom = 15.8%
- Germany = 12.4%
- France = 11.2%

Data from "Going Mobile" article in International Educator, May/June 2010

US National Strategy



- Change in Immigration Policy to make the US more welcoming to international students
 - Waive personal interviews
 - Expediting visa reviews for those in a low-risk category ex. Those who frequently come to the US.
 - Reform the security clearance procedure for scientists to quicken the process

All of this involves a coordinated effort and funding for that effort.

What's My Point



- US has been known as a destination for higher education despite ourselves.
- Need concentrated effort to remain a destination particularly since:
 - ▣ other countries are now aggressively marketing
 - ▣ Sending countries are building their own capacity for higher education
- This effort would involve a US national strategy for international education and include visa reform to make it easier for students to come to study and then stay and work in the US.

Questions for You!



- Besides international student & scholar services, what are two other components of international education?
- What event led to Congress asking for a pilot program, CIPRIS?
- Which three countries are the US' main competitors for international students?
- What does the acronym SEVIS stand for?
- What are the top three countries that send the most students to the US?

Questions for me?



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