



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE-PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS

300,000+

graduate-professional students

50+

universities

one voice

of grad/prof students in the U.S.

NAGPS is the only entirely student-run, volunteer organization representing graduate and professional students at private and public universities throughout the United States. Since 1986, NAGPS has advocated for graduate and professional students and provided resources and information for our legislative leaders about the power and benefit of graduate education.

OUR PLATFORM

NAGPS advocates for graduate and professional student issues including:

- **Continued and sustained funding for higher education, and research in science, the arts and humanities** to power our economy, improve our society, and support jobs for advanced-degree students
- **Reunification** of graduate and undergraduate loan rates to reverse the current inequalities and **Reinstatement** of in-school interest subsidy for graduate-professional student loans
- **Stateside processing of Class F student visa renewals**
- **Open access** to publicly-funded research to ensure that American taxpayers have access to the latest research, which will spur innovation and help grow the economy
- **Immigration reform** that recognizes the importance of the U.S. retaining its intellectual capital by increasing the number of visas and Green Cards available to DREAM Act and international students with advanced degrees

WHAT WE DO

NAGPS provides three core services to graduate-professional students in the U.S.:



ADVOCACY

Coordinated federal and state advocacy on issues that impact students



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Events, workshops, and publications designed to empower the next generation of leaders in the U.S.



RESOURCES

Access to benefits and services that help save students money and improve their quality of life

**LEARN MORE
ONLINE AT
NAGPS.ORG**



Funding Graduate Education

An Investment in the Future



NAGPS Legislative
Concerns Committee

We urge you to support legislation that would:

- Increase funding to federal research agencies to reverse the damage from budget caps and sequestration cuts
- Reinstate and ensure future political science research funding through the NSF
- Restore funding for the Javits and GAANN fellowship programs to \$39 million

The Benefits of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Funding (STEM)

- Job growth in STEM fields is expected to be 70% higher than non-STEM fields through 2018.[1]
- 53% of basic academic science research in the United States is funded through the federal government [2]
- Grants from NSF supported about 150,000 researchers, including graduate and undergraduate students in FY 2010 [3]
- More than 80,000 patents were generated from NSF funded research from 2000 to 2009 [3]
- STEM fields are critical to reigniting the economy. There are nearly two job openings per STEM-educated person nationally [9]

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2:1
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The Benefits of Social, Behavioral, Economic, and Political Science

- The social sciences are crucial to solving many of our nation's most pressing issues including understanding disease spread, disaster preparedness, and efficient use of resources [5]
- Social science and social network analysis have been crucial in ensuring national security and understanding terrorist networks [6][7]
- Social science research interventions can reduce repeat crime offenses by up to 40% [6]
- The State Department, Homeland Security, Defense Department, and Department of Energy all rely on the work of social scientists [5]

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Funding for the Javits Fellowship and the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

- In 2012, the Javits Fellowship program -- the only federal fellowship for students in the arts and humanities -- was consolidated into the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) program, reducing funding by 24% [8]
- The average time to degree for Javits fellowship students is less than their peers [8]

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References

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www.aaas.org/news/releases/2013/0618_social-science.shtml
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www.dtic.mil/get-tr-doc/pdf?AD=ADA466574
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<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/jacobjavits/index.html>
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www.changetheequation.org/stemdemand

Graduate-Professional Student Loans



NAGPS Legislative
Concerns Committee

We urge you to sponsor and support legislation that would:

REUNIFY the graduate and undergraduate loan rates to reverse current inequalities

REINSTATE the in-school interest subsidy for graduate-professional student loans

*The average cumulative debt for a Master's is **\$57,000** and is **\$75,000** for a doctoral degree. This figure increases to **\$146,000** for a professional degree, which is more than four times the average undergraduate debt load (approx. \$29,000). [1]*

Reunify Loan Rates

- The 2013-14 school year was the **first time in history** that graduate-professional students were charged a different rate than undergraduates for unsubsidized Stafford loans. This policy continues into the 2015-2016 school year.

Federal investment

in doctoral education fills a critical gap that neither states nor industry can fill [10]

Reinstate In-School Interest Sidsidy

- Earning a Ph.D. takes an average of 7.5 years [2]. Compounding interest from unsubsidized loans further swells the debt load, increasing monthly loan payments by \$203 for students taking out the maximum Stafford Loan amount.
- According to Congressional Budget Office projections, the removal of the in-school interest subsidy will result in an increase of \$18.1 billion in the debt burden of graduate-professional students over 10 years. [3]

13%:77%

Grad/Prof students:
13% of loans;
77% of net profit [9]

Why This Matters

- When the federal government invests in graduate-professional education, the entire nation greatly benefits. [4]
- Graduate student loans are the safest investment of all student loans with a significantly lower default rate (6.4%), which is 3X smaller than the overall rate (18.4%). [5]
- The high cost of student loans prohibits graduate and professional students from being active participants in our struggling economy, preventing them from buying homes and starting small businesses. [6]
- Domestic enrollment in graduate education has seen a decline over the past several years. [7]
- Jobs requiring advanced degrees are expected to grow by at least 20% by 2020. [8]

Graduate instructors

help keep undergraduate education affordable

70%+

of graduate students received some form of financial aid [11]

Graduate-Professional Student Loans



NAGPS Legislative
Concerns Committee

References

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www.edvisors.com/media/files/studentaidpolicy/20140107-debt-at-graduation.pdf
- [2] **NSF/NIH/USED/USDA/NEH/NASA, Survey of Earned Doctorates.**
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www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/ftpdocs/123xx/doc12357/budgetcontrolactaug1.pdf
- [4] **Association of American Universities, Graduate Education in the National Interest**
<http://www.aau.edu/research/article.aspx?id=4668>
- [5] **Budget Lifetime Default rates, based on dollars for a projected cohort life of 20 years. U.S. Department of Education.**
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www.newyorkfed.org/newsevents/news/research/2015/rp150217.html
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www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2012/ted_20120228.htm
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www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget15/justifications/s-loansoverview.pdf
- [10] **Association of American Universities, Understanding Doctoral Education in the U.S.**
www.aau.edu/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=11582
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www.nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2013165

Open Access to Federally Funded Research

Increasing Innovation and Improving Education



NAGPS Legislative
Concerns Committee

We urge you to support and co-sponsor:

S. 779 - Fair Access to Science and Technology
Research Act (FASTR) [bipartisan]

H.R. 1477 - Fair Access to Science and Technology
Research Act (FASTR) [bipartisan]

OPEN ACCESS

A Win for American Students, Taxpayers and Small Businesses

- **Small Business:** Removes the cost barrier that prevents small businesses from incorporating the latest research into their innovation
- **Students:** Provides access to cutting-edge research and reduces the cost burden for continuing education
- **Citizens:** Maximizes taxpayers' return on investment in publicly funded research and provides every taxpayer with access to research they have paid for
- **Accountable Government:** Allows transparent review of how federal dollars are used

700,000

users access PubMed
every weekday [1]

57%

of PubMed users
are from the general
public and industry [1]

Proven Track Record of Success: The NIH Public Access Program

The NIH public access policy currently requires peer-reviewed papers developed from NIH-funded projects to be submitted to NIH's public PubMed Central (PMC) database within one year after publication [1].

Every weekday, more than 700,000 users access PMC. The NIH estimates that only 25% of these users are from universities, 40% are from the general public, and 17% are from industry [1].

Support from Publishers

At least 50 major publishers, including the Nature Publishing Group and the American Institute of Physics, have pledged to support access models that maximize "dissemination of and access to the content" they publish [2]. Growth in the medical journal market -- the one most affected by the NIH policy -- is forecast to be 4.0% annually from 2015-2017 [3].

Improving Education Resources

Support Affordable Textbooks



NAGPS Legislative
Concerns Committee

We urge you to support and co-sponsor:

H.R. 3721 - Affordable College Textbook Act

S. 2176 - Affordable College Textbook Act

Open Educational Resources (OER) are Fiscally Responsible

- The rising cost of college textbooks places an unnecessary burden on all students. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that college textbook prices increased 82% between 2002 and 2012 [4].
- Considering recent technological advancements, textbook prices should be decreasing, not increasing.
- Open Educational Resources (OER) are digital textbooks and other materials licensed for free.
- Expanding the creation and use of OER can reduce the burden of textbook costs and make higher education more affordable.

82%

increase in textbook
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2002-2012 [4]

References

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http://publicaccess.nih.gov/public_access_policy_implications_2012.pdf

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<http://www.stm-assoc.org/publishers-support-sustainable-open-access/>

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http://www.stm-assoc.org/2015_02_20_STM_Report_2015.pdf

[4] Government Accountability Office. 2013. College Textbooks: Students Have Greater Access to Textbook Information.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-13-368>

Resources

Public comments submitted to the Office of Science and Technology Policy regarding Open Access

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/library/publicaccess>

Memo submitted by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy to agency and executive department heads

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/ostp_public_access_memo_2013.pdf

Strengthen Academic Visa Processing



NAGPS Legislative
Concerns Committee

We urge Congress to sponsor and pass legislation that would allow stateside processing of Class F student visa renewals

Currently:

International students must renew their visas at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate office abroad — a process that takes at least 30 days. Requiring the renewal of academic visas abroad disrupts scholarship, impedes research, and imparts an undue hardship on our international scholars.

Benefits of Stateside Processing Include:

Supports and Creates U.S. Jobs

- For every 2 international students enrolled, 1 U.S. job is created or supported. [1][2]

Fosters American Research Competitiveness

- Currently, international students funded by federal research dollars are hindered from conducting and representing high caliber U.S. research on the international stage. [3]

Attracts the World's Best and Brightest

- Between 2001 and 2014, the U.S. share of the “global market” of international students has declined by 29%. [4]
- Talented foreign students are being enticed to study in other countries with more attractive student visa policies. [3][5]

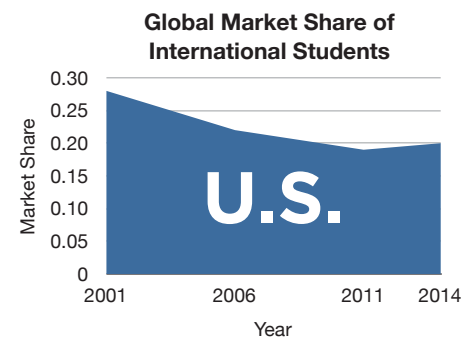
Saves Time and Money

- Allowing stateside renewal of F visas would circumvent the unnecessary time and financial burden currently required for students to renew their visas. [3]
- Without these additional hardships, international students would be able to contribute more to the U.S. economy. According to NAFSA, in the 2014-2015 academic year, foreign students and their families supported over **370,000 U.S. jobs** and contributed **\$30.5 billion** to the U.S. economy. [2]

Preserves Security Standards

- Stateside processing will be able to uphold the security standards that are in place at our consulates abroad. This proposal takes the same screening process currently happening out of the country and offers it in the U.S.

Nearly
1 million
international students
and their dependents are
directly impacted [1],[2]



Foreign students and their families accounted for a net economic contribution of [2]

\$30.5 billion

Strengthen Academic Visa Processing



NAGPS Legislative
Concerns Committee

References

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http://www.nafsa.org/_/File/_/econvalue2015_natl.pdf
- [3] **Policy Implications of International Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars in the United States**, The National Academies.
<http://www.nap.edu/catalog/11289.html>
- [4] **Atlas of Student Mobility**, Institute of International Education.
<http://www.iie.org/projectatlas>
- [5] **U.S. Immigration Policy**, Council on Foreign Relations.
<http://www.cfr.org/immigration/us-immigration-policy/p20030>

Resources

International student economic impact per state and U.S. Congressional district
<http://www.nafsa.org/economicvalue>

Departments of State and Homeland Security, Secure Borders and Open Doors Advisory Committee, made a similar recommendation in 2008
http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/hsac_SBODACreport508-compliant_version2.pdf

Over 40 higher education, science, and engineering organizations have made similar recommendations
<http://www.aau.edu/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=3142>

Student Testimonials

<http://nagps.org/domestic-visa-revalidation/>

Proposed Legislation

<http://nagps.org/proposed-language-domestic-revalidation-of-student-visas/>