

https://www.dailycal.org/news/national/trump-administration-proposes-four-year-limit-on-international-student-visas/article_6249a74f-43f1-40d2-a4bb-4c5f0a211661.html

Trump administration proposes four-year limit on international student visas

Asiya Siddiqui | Staff
Sep 3, 2025



As of Fall 2024, international students make up about 16% of campus’ student body, comprising around 9% of the undergraduate population and around 31% of the graduate student population.
Cam-Truc Hua Di | Staff

A proposed rule from President Donald Trump’s administration could limit how long international students and scholars are permitted to stay in the U.S., according to an Aug. 27 announcement.

This proposal would overhaul the longstanding F-1 and J-1 visa policy, admitting student visa holders for a “duration of status,” which generally allows them to stay for the length of their studies, according to the Department of Homeland Security, or DHS.

If passed, the policy would bind international students visas to a fixed four-year duration with limited options for extensions.

“I wanted to extend my studies into grad school and whatnot, (but) it does sound (like) there is more to worry about,” said an international student, who wishes to remain anonymous due to fear of retribution.

In a press release, the DHS said the proposal aims to prevent “visa abuse” and increase its “ability to properly vet and oversee” visa holders.

Donate

This comes after a series of aggressive immigration-related actions taken by the Trump administration, including revoked student visas and increased online surveillance.

Under this rule, international students would be granted a four-year stay period, regardless of how long their educational program lasts. Extensions would be granted under exceptional circumstances, such as documented medical conditions, natural disasters or a change of major. In addition, foreign students must demonstrate sufficient funds to cover academic expenses when requesting an extension.

According to the July 2025 strategic plan from the Berkeley International Office, or BIO, the office has adapted to confront new challenges by holding three “F-1/J-1 Student Workshops” responding to current events. The plan also highlights two webinars co-sponsored by immigration law firm, Wolfsdorf Immigration, to keep students informed on the potential impact of national policies.

“Based on my experience, I’ve been feeling pretty supported by the institution (UC Berkeley),” said the student. “The BIO ... definitely lessens the stress regarding international statuses.”

The student added that the campus could increase support for international students by providing access to legal resources to aid in the comprehension of new policies.

Approximately 2.1 million foreign students are enrolled in an F, J, or I program, with an estimated 414,000 individuals requesting extensions annually, as reported by the Law Offices of Rajiv S. Khanna.

As of fall 2024, international students make up about 16% of campus’ student body, comprising around 9% of the undergraduate population and around 31% of the graduate student population. Some graduate or long-term academic programs could be directly affected by this policy, often taking more than the proposed allotment of 4 years to complete.

According to the National Center for Educational Statistics, the average undergraduate student takes 4.3 years to complete their degree, and the National Science Foundation reports that an average Ph.D. student takes 5.7 years.

The proposal is still in its 30-day public comment period, which began Aug. 28.

Asiya Siddiqui