

Interpreter Releases Report and analysis of immigration and nationality law
© 2008 Thomson Reuters/West.

November 24, 2008

***3140 9. DOS Announces Increase in Student Visas, Foreign Student Enrollment**

The Department of State (DOS or Department) has issued a media note announcing that a record number of F, J, and M student and exchange visitor visas were issued in Fiscal Year (FY) 2008. The Department reported that 710,631 such visas were issued, representing a 9% increase over FY 2007. According to the media note, almost 40% more student and exchange visitor visas were issued to Chinese nationals than in FY 2007 and that there continues to be "significant increases in student and exchange visitor visa issuances from the Middle East, where we issued 26.2 percent more student and exchange visitor visas in fiscal year 2008 than in fiscal year 2007." The media note is available at <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2008/nov/112041.htm>.

***3141** The Department also recently reported that the number of international students enrolled in U.S. colleges and universities rose by 7%, and new student enrollment rose by 10% in the 2007-2008 academic year. There were 623,805 international students enrolled throughout the U.S., a new record high. The same notice notes that U.S. students studying abroad have also increased with 241,791 studying in foreign colleges and universities. The State Department indicated that it has actively promoted the exchange of students, citing to expanded support for educational advising around the world at EducationUSA advising centers where international students can obtain information about the broad range of educational opportunities offered by U.S. colleges and universities. Also stated in the media note is the fact that the Department is "supporting English language programs, like the English Access Microscholarship Program for underserved high school students in more than 60 countries, to prepare future generations of international students to pursue educational opportunities in the United States." The media note can be found on the Department's website at <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2008/nov/111891.htm>.

85 No. 46 Interpreter Releases 3140

END OF DOCUMENT