

FAS-SEAS SENATE

**AN ELECTED BODY OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND
SCIENCES AND SEAS**

YALE UNIVERSITY

Supporting Yale's International Graduate Students

A Statement, with recommendations, by the FAS-SEAS Senate

APPROVED by the FAS-SEAS Senate

May 8, 2025

Yale's excellence depends on the collective work of its outstanding students as well as its faculty and staff. We focus here on the over 40% of students in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences who are international. They are, along with all of our students, currently experiencing much greater anxiety than is normally associated with academic research. They have watched as international graduate students at Yale and across the country have been targeted for deportation for minor interactions with the legal system, for making political statements, for participating in protests, or for no evident reason other than their nationality. Students have lost visas, had their immigration status revoked, and some have been arrested. Our students are, rightly, concerned about their futures should they be targeted.

Yale and OISS have done much to educate both students and faculty, and recent policy changes have aimed to protect students in non-public spaces. Recent legal actions have reversed many of the attempted deportations, including in New Haven. Nevertheless, there is much that we, as faculty, can do to support our international students, especially as it pertains to their academic work and progress toward their degrees.

The FAS-SEAS Senate, in collaboration with representatives of the Graduate Student Assembly, have developed the following recommendations for how faculty and departments can support our international graduate students and alleviate some of their legitimate "what if" concerns. We also encourage the administration to take the most flexible and generous approach to support graduate students affected by visa and immigration issues.

1) Communicate to international students that they have faculty and departmental support: use or organize departmental or program-based discussions to convey that you are thinking about their situation, and that you will address, as best you can, their concerns. One of the difficulties, at all levels, with the current national situation is the lack of information, affirmation and support.

2) Know your rights and the rights of international students in the event that immigration officials are on campus or if such officials seek access to a non-public location. Clear advice can be found on the [OISS website](#). It can be helpful preparation to mentally visualize such interactions. Encourage students and staff to know these rights.

3) Students have numerous practical concerns about what happens if their study is interrupted. These situations are usually addressed individually and only after they arise, but departments might think ahead and plan how to handle such situations. We encourage discussing these issues in consultation with GSAS Deans. Solutions are likely to vary from discipline to discipline, but questions to consider now might include:

- How can we help a student complete their graduate work if they cannot remain in or re-enter the country? Does this vary by year in the program?
- Are any COVID-era-type extensions of requirements possible? Are on-campus residency requirements flexible, or can teaching or course requirements be satisfied remotely?
- Under what circumstances can a student continue to receive a stipend?
- How should students think about international field research at this time? Can the risk be evaluated in advance so that options may be considered?

As faculty, we may feel powerless to prevent denied visas and revoked immigration status, but we can, and have a responsibility to, help our students in the ways that are available to us: to help them navigate the current uncertainties and to look for solutions that support their learning, teaching, and research.