



ONE TO WORLD

Advancing international understanding in the **Fulbright** tradition.

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Despite pandemic and political attacks, majority of Americans say U.S. benefits from presence of international students

Remarkable consistency between new, August survey and January poll

NEW YORK, NY (August 4, 2020) – Despite an ongoing, months-long global pandemic, as well as an apparent effort by the current administration to limit cultural exchange and incoming international students, a majority of Americans – 51% – say the U.S. benefits from the presence of international students. These are the results of an online, nationwide survey released today by One To World, a New York-based nonprofit committed to building bridges between international students and the broader local community. The survey of 1,500 adults was conducted during a five-day period, concluding on August 2, 2020.

Further, only 11% rejected the idea that international students provide benefits, though nearly four in 10 expressed no opinion.

“We are pleased to see a majority of Americans recognize the value that international students bring to the United States,” said Jen Clarke, One To World’s executive director. “In addition to the clear economic benefits, international students bring a diversity of thought and cultures to the campuses and communities in which they live and study”.

Overall, students from abroad contribute approximately \$40 billion to the U.S. economy each year, while creating or supporting more than 450,000 U.S. jobs.

One To World’s survey indicated that in terms of age, respondents 55-64 were least supportive (47.3%), while respondents age 25-34 were most supportive (56.6%). Women and men were nearly identical in responding favorably (women, 51.4%; men, 51.3%), but men were significantly more likely to respond negatively (men, 14.2%; women, 8%). As for geography, respondents in the west were more supportive, at 56%, while those in the south were least supportive, at 46.7%. [Full poll results are available here.](#)

“The survey also shows that 37% of Americans are uncertain about the value of international students to the U.S., which means the higher education community has more work to do,” said Dr. Sue Henderson, chair of the One To World board of directors and president of New Jersey City University. “We need to be more focused on and

effective at advocating on behalf of our international students, to the benefit of higher education, American students, and businesses across the country.”

Surprisingly, a similar survey from [January 2020](#) had almost identical results. The new poll had 51.3% favorable responses; the figure in January was 51.5%. The new survey showed 11% negative responses; in January, it was 11.3%. The consistency between these surveys demonstrates that despite elevated health risks connected to travel, closed borders, and travel restrictions, Americans continue to recognize the importance of international students in the U.S.

One To World’s July 28–Aug. 2 survey (as well as its January poll) was conducted using the Google Surveys Publisher Network; the margin of error was 2.4 percent at the 95 percent confidence level.

[GOOGLE METHODOLOGY](#)

About One To World

Established in 1977, One To World engages the almost 100,000 international students studying in the New York area through programs that create understanding and build positive relationships between area residents and these unofficial ambassadors from all over the world. One To World is designated by the U.S. Department of State as the official Coordinator of Enrichment Programs for visiting Fulbright grantees studying in the greater New York area. Our programs provide a unique opportunity for U.S. residents and international students to engage on an intimate level – having dinner inside local homes, sharing culture and experiences in the classroom and workplace, and volunteering their time together through community service projects.

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