International students enrich our campuses, communities, and country. College admission counselors make an impact on their journey, helping students navigate the many steps to accessing education in the United States.

Recent policies, such as the travel ban and extreme vetting—and the growing sense that America’s schools are unsafe—are negatively impacting international students’ interest in studying here. These influences threaten our standing as the top destination for them—and the academic, cultural and economic contributions they bring.

Support policies that:

• Promote international student mobility

• Ensure ethical treatment of all students in the recruitment process

• Improve access to college counseling

Learn more at nacacnet.org/PolicyInitiatives.

MEET MAJDA AL MALKI

• Freshman from Oman studying economics and public policy at The University of Chicago.

• Member of the Arab Students Association and Oeconomica, the undergraduate economics research association.

• Plans on becoming a teaching assistant for Arabic.

• Studying in the US through the support of her home country, the Sultanate of Oman. The Omani government fully funds dozens of students each year because they believe in US education.

Why did you choose to study in the US?

I knew that the US would give me opportunities to unlock my potential more than any other country could.

How did your college counselor help you find your best fit college?

As a student who knew nothing about colleges in the US, I am very grateful to my counselors for investing so much time and effort in teaching me all about the application process and life in American colleges.

International Students’ Impact on Illinois

In Illinois, 53,362 international students create or support 24,330 jobs and contribute $1.8 billion to the economy (NAFSA International Student Economic Value Tool).

The 2017–18 academic year witnessed a 6.6 percent decline in enrollment of new international students to the US (IIE International Student Enrollment Hot Topics Survey). In Illinois, that decline would translate into over 3,500 fewer international students.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROFILE

MY JOURNEY TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO (IL)

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