

AAA Statement on the Recent ICE Decision regarding International Students

The American Academy of Advertising, represented by its executive committee, voices its concern and condemnation of the recent decision by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), announced on Monday July 6, 2020, regarding F-1 and M-1 visas for International Students. Per the decision, students attending U.S. institutions are banned from remaining in or entering the United States if they take a “full online course load” whether their institutions are offering online-only or hybrid courses for the upcoming semesters in response to emerging concerns about the safety and health of students, faculty, and staff at our institutions amidst the current COVID-19 health pandemic.

Students, both domestic and foreign, are the lifeblood of our institutions and our Academy. In addition to being discriminatory, this policy will likely have negative impact on universities on multiple levels, including financial losses as well as losses to the diversity of ideas and perspectives that international students bring to the U.S.

As an organization that values and champions diversity, with members who represent different walks of life, including international students and scholars, the AAA calls on ICE to rescind its decision. We remain committed to a culture of diversity and inclusion at the AAA, and with that, we want to send out support to our members who are international students and scholars. We value what you bring to our organization.