

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002295/25
to the Commission**

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(6 June 2025)

Subject: US decision to suspend student visas and social media screening

US President Donald Trump has announced a suspension of several student visa categories for foreign nationals, including those from EU Member States. The US State Department has recently halted student visa interviews for foreign applicants while it implements new procedures to screen their social media activity, a move that raises serious concerns about privacy, fundamental rights and potential discrimination. These unilateral actions undermine academic exchange, mutual understanding and the right of young Europeans to access global education opportunities. They also set a dangerous precedent of profiling and digital surveillance, which runs counter to democratic values and the rule of law.

In light of these developments:

1. Does the Commission consider the US decision compatible with international commitments on human rights, academic freedom and data protection?
2. What steps has the Commission taken to ensure that EU students are not subject to discriminatory practices or privacy violations under these measures?
3. How does the Commission intend to respond to this unilateral and disproportionate decision, and what actions will it take to defend the rights of young Europeans seeking to study abroad?

Submitted: 6.6.2025

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(12 August 2025)**

The Commission is aware of recent developments regarding changes to United States (US) visa procedures for international students, including the temporary suspension of certain categories and the introduction of additional screening measures. These developments are being followed closely, particularly with regard to their potential implications for EU citizens.

The Commission maintains regular contact with US counterparts through diplomatic channels and continues to monitor the situation in cooperation with Member States. It is also assessing the possible impact on academic mobility of EU students.

The Commission remains committed to supporting international academic exchange and mobility for young Europeans to pursue educational opportunities abroad.

It considers it important that the rights of EU citizens, also when studying abroad, as well as fundamental academic values, including academic freedom, are respected. The Commission will continue to engage with relevant stakeholders and explore appropriate avenues for dialogue and cooperation.
