



CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN A CROSS-CULTURAL SETTING

International Student and Scholar Services

NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

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Arrest of an International Student or Scholar

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The arrest of an international student or scholar could have an impact on the ability of that student or scholar to continue to attend an institution. Given the variance on the severity of the event, it is important to engage resources both on- and off-campus to handle potential academic and legal ramifications. The international student and scholar services office can utilize this checklist to work on behalf of the student and institution.

For additional guidance and resources on ways to respond to the arrest of an international student or scholar, read “Arrest of an International Student or Scholar” in *Crisis Management in a Cross-Cultural Setting*, which can be purchased online from the [NAFSA bookstore](#).

CONDENSED CHECKLIST

Precrisis Considerations:

- Engage in outreach with campus police and with your counseling center about considerations of different cultural approaches to crisis, stress, and interaction with law enforcement.
- Provide information in orientation programs.
- Send out reminders to your international students and scholars through your office social media about their rights and responsibilities.
- Compile a legal assistance referral list (if allowed by your institution).
- Know what services your student legal services office can provide.

Responding to the Arrest of an International Student or Scholar:

- Notify appropriate institution officials to engage support protocols to the international student or scholar.

- Connect the student or scholar to essential campus resources.
- Provide a list of local, qualified legal resources to the student or scholar.
- Understand the limitations of the international student and scholar adviser's role.
- If the student or scholar is detained in a local jail, determine what actions need to be taken.
- Assist the student or scholar in contacting family in his or her home country, if applicable.
- Immediate Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) action is not required for F-1 students or J-1 students/scholars, but assess the situation, as an obligation may eventually arise.
- Advise the student or scholar to notify the appropriate campus official of any updates regarding the dispensation of any action/court case resulting from the arrest.
- Advise the student or scholar about possible implications in applying for a future U.S. visa.