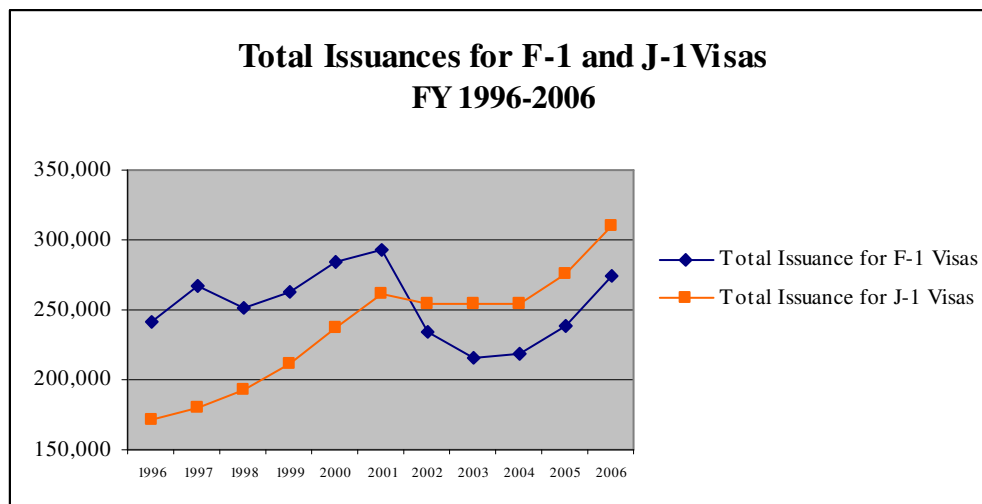


International Student Visa Issuance FY 1996 – FY 2006

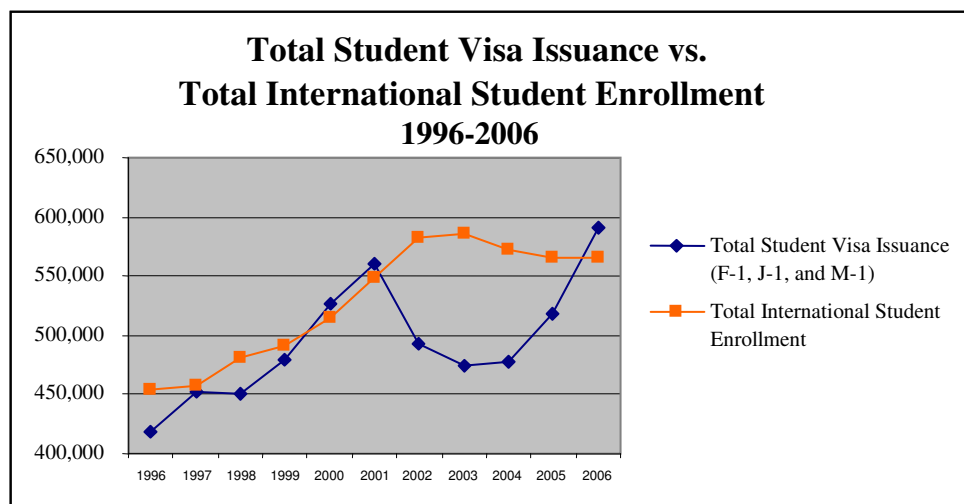
Although the recent data from the U.S. State Department regarding total international student visa issuance for FY2006 (591,050) is encouraging, there are two important considerations to note regarding the data and its implications for international student enrollment in the United States:

(1) Most international students enrolled at U.S. universities are issued an F-1 visa, whereas much of the growth in international student visa issuance over the past three years has occurred in the J-1 visa category, whose participants include not only university students, but also university scholars, high school exchange students, teachers, camp counselors, trainees, summer workers, and au pairs. (The M-1 visa, issued for vocational study, also saw increases, but they are omitted from the graph below, as their numbers are considerably smaller (just over 7,200 in FY2006) when compared to the F-1 and J-1 categories.)



Source: State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs, Letter to NAFSA: Association of International Educators, November 2006; Consular Affairs Visa Issuance Statistics, http://travel.state.gov/visa/about/report/report_1476.html

(2) The increases in international student visa issuance, beginning in 2003, have not yet translated into increases in overall international student enrollment over the same time period. Overall international student enrollment remains below its peak, which occurred during the 2002-2003 academic year.



Sources: State Department, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Letter to NAFSA: Association of International Educators, November 2006; Consular Affairs Visa Issuance Statistics, http://travel.state.gov/visa/about/report/report_1476.html; *Open Doors*, Institute of International Education, 1996-2006.