

TO: Mike Ende, NALP Board Liaison  
FROM: Rebecca Moor, Section Chair  
DATE: June 25, 2020  
RE: Third Report for the International and Advanced Degree Advising and Recruiting Section

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The International and Advanced Degree Advising and Recruiting Section has been relatively quiet since our last quarterly report.

- Environmental Scanning

One of the biggest issues for our law school members has been the larger than usual influx of LLMs starting in the spring semester (January) due to pandemic-related deferrals from the fall. Members note that having students join their programs at different points throughout the year is the “primary headache” for career offices, confusing the regular programming schedule and creating uncertainty about optimal recruiting timing and opportunities. In addition, having some students study remotely – often in different time zones – has led to significant challenges with student engagement. Law schools are continuing to see decreasing numbers of international students due to the pandemic. Students in certain jurisdictions, particularly China, have faced many challenges getting US visa appointments, and many have opted to defer start dates until fall 2021, when the hope is that they will be able to begin their studies in person.

Some law firm members, especially those in Asia, are reporting that things are returning to “normal” and that international student hiring is robust.

- LLM Legal Recruiting

The International Student Interview Program (ISIP), run out of NYU in conjunction with thirty-three law schools, has shifted from an annual in-person program (generally held in late January) to a two-part program running virtually in both March and June. The March program – “ISIP Preview” – opened on Friday, January 26. New employers are added on a rolling basis, and both students and employers can choose to participate in March, June, or both.

- The Bar

Changes to US bar eligibility and administration resulting from COVID-19 continue to pose challenges for international students and their bar advisors. Most recently, the New York bar decided to make the February 2021 bar exam and online test, but limited LLM applicants to recent (2020 and 2021) graduates.

- Visas

The change in the White House seems likely to improve the ability of non-US citizens to come to the US to study and stay here and work after graduation. In the short term, however, it is unclear whether online study outside of the US will impact the ability of current international students to get Optional Practical Training (OPT) after graduation.

- New Members

We continue to get new members and Member Relations Vice Chair Megan Avellana will welcome and introduce new members at our next Section meeting.

Our next Section meeting will be held via zoom on **March 2, 2021, at 1:00 pm Eastern Time.**