

International & Advanced Degree Advising & Recruiting Section NALP June Board Report

To: Clara Solomon, Board Liaison
CC: Meaghan Hagner, Member Services Coordinator NALP
From: Sarah Gruzaz, Section Chair
Date: October 9, 2019

Please find below a summary of the Section's activities during the most recent quarter.

Quarterly Section Calls (2019-2020)

- Our Section's quarterly calls are scheduled as follows:
 - January 21, 2020 at 11 am PT
 - March 10, 2020 at 11 am PT
- We held our second Section call on October 8, 2019 and approximately 15 people attended.

Immigration Guest Speaker

- Guest speaker Esther Cho Lee, the Associate Director of the Office of International Services at the University of Southern California shared updates regarding visa trends and a change in the OPT review policy.
- Immigration advisors are seeing continued delays on visa processing times for students from China, Iran, Turkey, and some European countries.
- There were no major changes to CPT to report.
- SEVP now proposes that schools individually monitor a student's OPT employment, but schools are not yet sure what form this monitoring will take and what metric they will use to determine whether a student's employment is appropriate for OPT.
- Advisors are seeing a continued increase in EAD processing time (4-5 months) and an increase in RFEs, but not an increase in denials.

Strategic Planning Report

- Vice Chair Caroline Springer shared a recap of the strategic planning report that was submitted to the NALP Board.
- Section members identified the following as the primary challenges and changes to the section:
 - Increase in LLM programs (class size and type), as well as online programs, may create additional difficulties for advisors based on limited resources and changing demographic needs.
 - Employers of students in specialized LLM programs may fall outside of NALP and thus do not follow the NALP recruitment guidelines, which can present unique challenges to advisors.
- We provided the following recommendations to the Board:

- Provide a report that identifies employers who are willing to hire LLMs or sponsor H-1B visas, as this would be incredibly helpful to our students.
- More research and information on JD advantage jobs would similarly benefit our growing and changing student populations.
- Given the significant burden information gathering would impose, career advisors request that NALP continue not to require job placement reporting for these students.

LLM-JD Partnership Programming and Open Discussion

- LLM-JD interaction – *Sara Drew and Melanie Orhant*
 - Sara and Melanie are preparing for their Bulletin article on the same subject, and requested feedback from other advisors on best practices to integrate their LLM and JD student populations. They will circulate a survey to our members.
- Mock Interview Scheduling
 - One advisor asked for best practices in scheduling mock interviews with alumni such that the student’s information was not public; other schools recommended the use of mail merge, “Sign Up Genius”, and “Calendly” to maximize efficiency while maintaining confidentiality
- Use of Third Party Vendors
 - One advisor noticed that in the Legal Master’s group strategic planning report, they mentioned the use of third party vendors to provide career services for non-LLM/JD students, and inquired whether others on the call were familiar with such practices. No one on the call was familiar with the use of such vendors; instead advisors rely on existing university resources, including CSOs in other specific schools.

Bar Exam Update

- Vice Chair Rebecca Moor confirmed that there were no bar updates to report.

Legislative Update

- Vice Chair Caroline Springer confirmed that there are no current legislative updates to report, beyond what was shared by the guest speaker.

January 2020 Call Transition

- We confirmed that Vice Chair Rebecca Moor will lead the January 2020 Section Call while Chair Sarah Gruzgas is on maternity leave.