About the Welcome Corps on Campus

Colleges and universities have a rich legacy of welcoming refugees, embracing the diversity of perspectives and backgrounds that newcomers bring to America. Campuses across the United States have implemented innovative programs and practices to aid refugees and other vulnerable communities as they access higher education, achieve degree completion, prepare to enter the workforce, and find long-term success.

Despite the growing interest in the intersection between higher education and displacement, a structured and sustainable pathway for refugee students to access higher education in the United States did not exist—until now. The Welcome Corps on Campus makes it possible for campus communities to welcome, enroll, and support refugee students, creating new opportunities for higher education institutions and their communities to leverage campus ecosystems and resources for private sponsorship. Campus Private Sponsor Groups receive ongoing support and guidance throughout the sponsorship journey ensuring participating campuses have the capacity to welcome refugee students.

Sponsoring on Campus

Sponsoring as a campus community makes adapting to life on-campus and in the United States easier for refugees and can be deeply rewarding for everyone involved. Successful sponsorship of refugee students is an all-of-campus approach which requires the commitment and buy-in of a variety of campus stakeholders to work together to secure financial, logistical, and academic supports.

Refugees are forced to flee their homes in search of safety, leaving many refugee students without the opportunity to continue their education and secure the futures they planned for. The Welcome Corps on Campus creates new opportunities for U.S. higher education institutions to serve as resettlement spaces, provide academic opportunities for refugee students, offer leadership opportunities for members of the student body, foster more diverse and inclusive campuses, and create a sustainable opportunity for colleges and universities to welcome refugee students on their campuses.

Together with the support of institutional leadership, staff, faculty, and students form Private Sponsor Groups (PSGs) to welcome refugee students who are academically qualified and have been offered a sponsorship opportunity to study at a specific college or university. PSGs provide refugee students with a softer landing and an educational pathway, setting them up for academic and overall success.

About the Consortium

The Department of State funds a consortium of non-profit organizations with expertise in refugee resettlement, higher education, and welcome to implement the Welcome Corps on Campus. The Welcome Corps on Campus is implemented through the collective efforts of these organizations under a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration at the U.S. Department of State.

WelcomeCorps.org/Campus