

LOST IN TRANSLATION

The unspoken challenges faced by international students in the U.S.



MPOWER
Financing

Julie Moreno, MPOWER Financing

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Julie Moreno
Director of University Relations



MPOWER
Financing

Scholarships and no-cosigner loans for
international students:

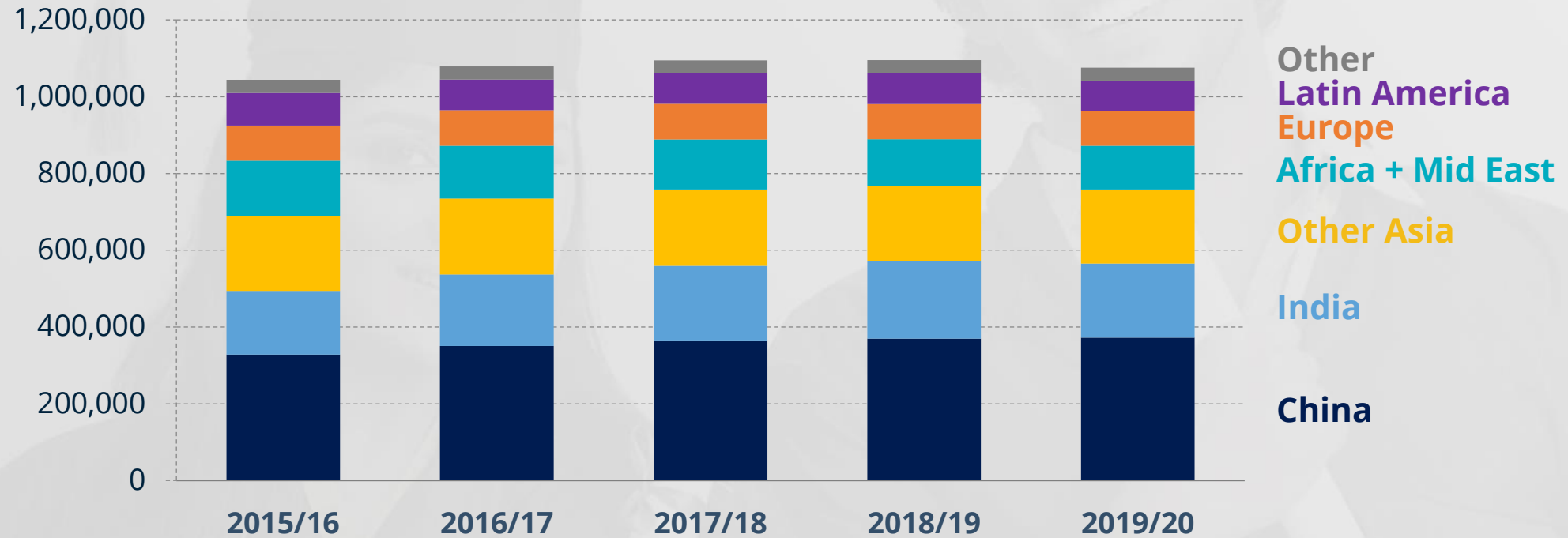
www.mpowerfinancing.com

WHERE ARE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FROM?

1. Mostly from China
2. Mostly from China and India
3. A diverse group of countries

WHERE ARE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FROM?

International Student Headcount in the U.S.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS HAVE A MAJOR ECONOMIC IMPACT IN THE US

**\$45 billion
economic
impact**

**Support over
400,000 jobs**

**Subsidize
tuition for
domestic
students**

**A valuable US
soft-power
export**

**A source of
diversity and
dynamism**

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION IS A CRUCIAL SOFT-POWER EXPORT FOR THE US

"one of the best ways to showcase the United States' ingenuity and know-how is to again make its universities the most attractive in the world to foreign talent."

"American universities have a special place in the global imagination, and lowering the visa hurdles for study in the United States while creating better, more accessible pathways for international students to work in the United States after graduation can pay both short- and long-term dividends in expanding U.S. influence."



Samantha Power
USAID Administrator
Former UN Ambassador

WHAT CHALLENGES DO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FACE?

1. Academics
2. Culture shock
3. Financials
4. All of the above

ACADEMICS ARE OFTEN THE MOST SUBSTANTIAL CHALLENGE FACED BY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- Overseas schools may have different expectations for homework, workload, deadlines, citations, and more
- Language issues may hurt their ability to understand things
- This may also hinder their ability to learn from instructors and collaborate with peers



LIVING IN A NEW COUNTRY CAN BE AN ISOLATING EXPERIENCE



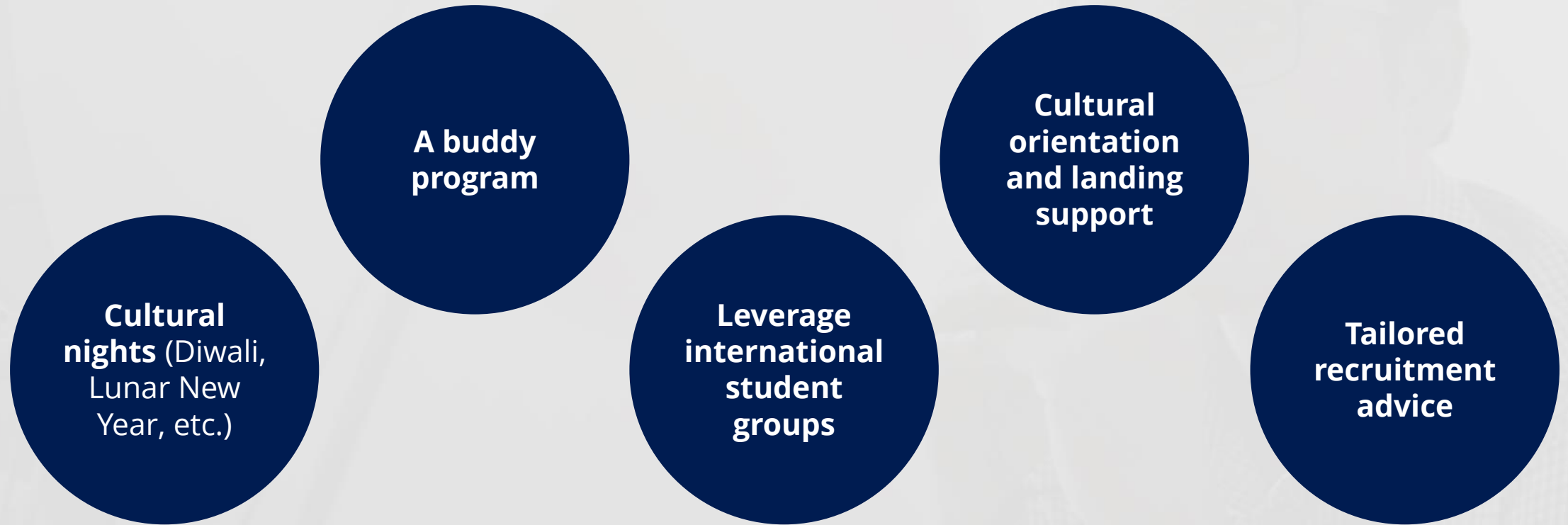
- Homesickness, isolation, and loneliness can be common problems faced by international students
- Language problems can exacerbate isolation
- When looking for employment, vastly different cultural norms can make it harder to secure interviews or a job offer

BATTLING CULTURE SHOCK

What have you seen your school do for international students?

Do you think it was successful?

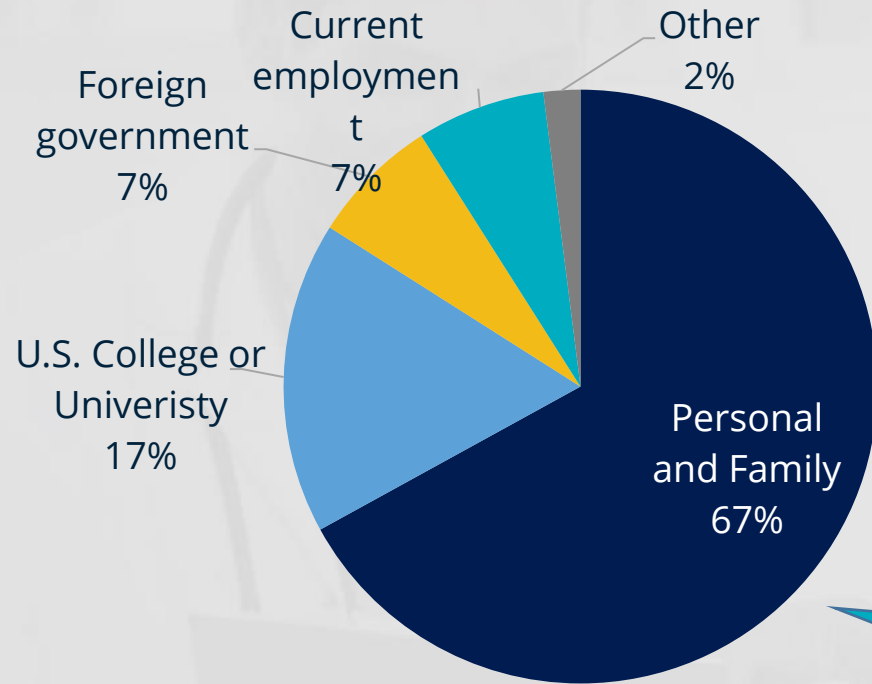
SOME SUGGESTIONS TO HELP STUDENTS BEAT CULTURE SHOCK



HOW DO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PAY FOR SCHOOL?

1. Family savings
2. Federal and private student loans
3. University-provided aid
4. Other / None of the above

HOW DO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PAY FOR SCHOOL?



- 2/3 of international students fund their education through personal and family savings
- This includes home-country loans which are not always clearly discernable

- No federal student loans
- No private student loans

Source: IIE Open Doors Report

A LOT OF STUDENTS GET “OFF-BOOK” LOANS FROM THE HOME COUNTRY

Case study: Students from India

- 1/3 of international students from India get a **property-backed loan** in India
- Average loan size is approx. \$60,000

Usually captured as
“personal and family
savings”

Source: Economic Times of India

THESE LOANS CAN BE QUITE EXPENSIVE!

Student loan interest rates charged by select firms



CAN INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS GET FEDERAL STUDENT LOANS?

1. Yes, of course!
2. Sometimes, in special circumstances
3. No, they can't

CAN INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS GET FEDERAL STUDENT LOANS?

Yes! Under special circumstances



American Nationals
(ie. American Samoans)



Compact Citizens
(Palau, Micronesia,
Marshall Islands)



Permanent Residents



**Refugees, Asylees, and
other protected
groups**

In general, No: most international students can't get federal student loans

CAN INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS GET PRIVATE STUDENT LOANS?

Yes! If they have a U.S. Cosigner

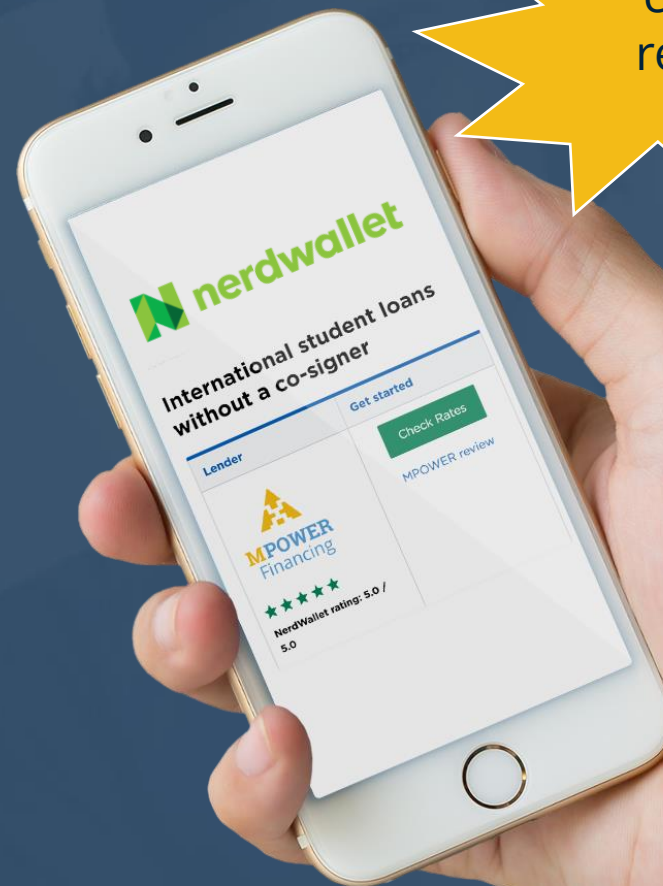


In general, No: few international students have a U.S. cosigner



#1 STUDENT LOAN FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

NerdWallet
Investopedia
US News and World Report



No
cosigner
required!

SOME SUGGESTIONS TO HELP INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FINANCE THEIR EDUCATION

**Learn about
the situation
and the
options**

**Highlight
options on
your website**

**Promote
awareness of
options and
risks**

**Partner with
admissions
officers**

**Bespoke
agreements
with lenders**



MPOWER
Financing

Contact

Julie.moreno@mpowerfinancing.com