

2005 APS Student Membership Survey  
Final Report  
January 9, 2006

by Raymond Y. Chu, Stacy Guo  
American Institute of Physics  
Statistical Research Center  
One Physics Ellipse  
College Park, MD 20740  
301-209-3069  
[rchu@aip.org](mailto:rchu@aip.org)

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The following tables were compiled after the three mailings of the 2005 APS Student Membership Survey. Emails were sent to 8039 APS student members on October 26, 2005. 331 were undeliverable, which left 7708 possible contacts. 2242 responded to the first mailing. Subsequent mailings to those who had not responded were sent on November 8 and 29. 936 responded to the second mailing and 879 responded to the third mailing. The overall response rate is 53%.

Table 1. Mailings and response rate

	Emails sent N	Undeliverable Emails N	Possible contracts N	Respondents N	Response rate %
First mailing Oct 26	8039	331	7708	2242	29
Second mailing Nov 8	5776	331	5466	936	17
Third mailing Nov 29	4861	331	4530	879	19
Overall	8039	331	7708	4057	53

Table 2. Current student status of respondents

	%
Graduate student	68
Undergraduate	18
No longer a student	15
Number of respondents	4057

Table 3. Current student status of undergraduates

	%
Seniors	55
Juniors	28
Sophomore	14
Freshman	3
Number of respondents	723

Table 4. Programs offered by the institutions attended by APS undergraduates

	%
Both graduate & undergraduate programs	66
Undergraduate programs only	34
Number of respondents	724

Table 5. Years of graduate school completed by graduate student members of APS

	%
4 or more years of graduate school	52
3 years of graduate school	21
2 years of graduate school	15
1 year of graduate school	12
Number of respondents	2740

Table 6. Degrees that graduate student members of APS pursue

	%
PhD	88
MS	5
Both	7
Number of respondents	2733

Table 7. How respondents first learned about APS by current student status

	Currently graduate %	Currently undergraduate %	No longer a student %	Overall %
Professor or advisor recommendation	41	35	40	40
Friend or peer	18	12	16	17
Attendance at an APS meeting or conference	16	4	20	14
SPS Membership Offer	7	29	7	11
An APS website	7	8	6	7
APS Student Paper	4	4	3	4
APS Brochure	2	2	3	2
APS Local Section	1	3	1	1
Other	5	4	3	4
Number of respondents	2814	731	476	4029

-Members of SPS (the Society of Physics Students) are predominantly undergraduate students. As part of their membership benefits, they are entitled to free membership to one of the 10 AIP Member Societies, which includes APS. Nearly a third of the current undergraduate student members of APS first learned about APS through this SPS member benefit. This is a relatively new SPS benefit and, therefore, graduate student members of APS are far less likely to have learned about APS through SPS.

-Graduate students are more likely to attend meetings and conferences than undergraduate students are. Therefore, graduate students are also more likely to have learned about APS at meetings or conferences.

Table 8. Reasons why students join APS by current student status

	Graduate years completed						Overall %
	One %	Two %	Three %	Four or more %	Undergrad %	No longer student %	
Wanted to present paper at APS meeting	28	44	50	53	11	51	42
View APS as my professional organization	41	39	42	39	29	39	38
Professor recommended I join	43	37	37	35	48	37	39
Physics Today	42	32	31	29	47	34	34
Lower meetings registration fee	17	21	22	24	8	21	20
Friend or peer recommend I join	15	15	14	13	25	13	16
Forum on Graduate Student Affairs (FGSA)	4	3	2	2	3	2	3
Discounted car insurance	2	5	2	3	1	2	2
Other	6	3	2	3	11	3	4
Number of respondents	317	411	583	1420	730	477	4024
Footnote: Respondents were allowed to choose up to 4 reasons for joining APS. The average number of reasons chosen was 2.0. 86 graduate student APS members did not indicate their number of years completed in graduate school.							

## Undergraduate Members

Table 9. Post-baccalaureate plans of APS undergraduates by student status

	Freshman %	Sophomore %	Junior %	Senior %	All %
Attend graduate school in physics	65	59	56	52	54
Attend graduate or professional school in other discipline, major or area	20	17	20	23	21
Seek employment	-	7	9	15	12
Pursue a second bachelors degree	-	-	2	2	2
I don't know	5	11	8	6	7
Other	-	7	6	3	5
Number of respondents	20	102	201	396	719

-Undergraduate students APS members are less likely to seek employment and more likely to aspire to graduate school than are the respondents to AIP surveys of all undergraduates.

Table 10. Undergraduate students of APS who rated the importance to them of the followings services and benefits.

	Essential or important %	Somewhat important %	Not at all important %	Don't know %
Physics Today	80	15	3	2
One free online journal for student members	66	18	9	7
Career Website	65	18	8	9
Scientific & Technology Books Discount	59	24	7	10
APS News	45	39	11	5
Attend APS Meeting at reduced rates	41	27	21	11
Online Member Directory	27	31	29	13
Email Alias	18	22	42	18
Participate in FGSA Activities & Governance	15	29	35	21
GEICO Auto Insurance	15	18	47	20
Group Life Insurance	13	19	47	21

Footnote: Respondents were asked to rate the level of importance for a set of APS member services and benefits on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1="Not at all important", 2="Somewhat important", 3= "Important", 4="Essential", 5="Don't know". The column labeled "Essential or important" include the respondents who chose both 3 and 4.

## Graduate Members

Table 11. Areas that graduate student members of APS are studying

	%
Condensed matter physics	29
Plasma or fluids physics	13
Atomic, molecular or optical physics	10
Materials physics	9
Particle physics	7
Biological physics	6
Nuclear physics	5
Astrophysics	5
Chemical physics	4
Undecided	1
Other	10
Number of respondents	2714

-The distribution of specialization among graduate student members is very similar to that found in AIP surveys of all physics graduate students. The sole exception is that graduate students who are APS members are more likely to choose plasma physics than are physics graduate students in general.

Table 12. Post-degree plans of graduate student members of APS

	%
Take a postdoctoral appointment	46
Seek employment in industry	20
Seek employment in academia	11
Seek employment in government research lab	7
Don't know	13
Other	3
Number of respondents	2731

-If one moved the “Don’t know” respondents into the postdocs, then this distribution is very similar to the initial employment of recent physics PhDs as reported by AIP surveys.

Table 13. Meetings attended within the last two years by graduate student members of APS

	%
March 2005 in Los Angeles	29
An APS division meeting	20
March 2004 in Montreal	12
An APS section meeting	5
April 2005 in Tampa	4
April 2004 in Denver	2
CAM 2005	2
Did not attended APS in 2005	39
Number of respondents	2739

Table 14. Student programs at APS meetings attended by graduate student members of APS within the last two years

	%
Receptions	22
Student paper sessions	12
Lunch with the experts	11
Job fair	9
Career workshops	6
Other	4
Attended meeting, but not programs	43
Number of respondents	1758

Table 15. Services that APS student members use that are provided by other organizations

	Graduate %	Undergraduate %	All %
Job postings	39	27	36
Career planning materials on web	22	26	23
Bulletin Boards	19	28	21
Listservs	12	15	12
Web seminars	7	5	7
Other	1	3	2
Number of respondents	2668	703	3371

Table 16. Citizenship of APS student members

	Graduate %	Undergraduate %	All %
US citizen	48	88	56
Temporary U.S. visa	49	8	40
Permanent U.S. visa	4	4	4
Number of respondents	2668	703	3371

-The distribution by citizenship is remarkably similar to that found by AIP in its surveys of all physics graduate students.

Table 17. Graduate students of APS who rated the importance to them of the followings services and benefits.

	Essential or important %	Somewhat important %	Not at all important %	Don't know %
Physics Today	77	18	3	2
Attend APS Meeting at reduced rates	77	12	4	7
Career Website	62	17	7	14
One free online journal for student members	56	18	17	9
Scientific & Technology Books Discount	53	24	11	12
APS News	39	39	15	7
Online Member Directory	27	32	23	18
GEICO Auto Insurance	20	19	39	22
Email Alias	19	22	37	22
Participate in FGSA Activities & Governance	17	28	28	27
Group Life Insurance	15	18	43	24

Footnote: Respondents were asked to rate the level of importance for a set of APS member services and benefits on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1="Not at all important", 2="Somewhat important", 3= "Important", 4="Essential", 5="Don't know". The column labeled "Essential or important" include the respondents who chose both 3 and 4.

Table 18. Graduate students of APS who rated the importance to the physics community of the followings services and benefits.

	Essential or important %	Somewhat important %	Not at all important %	Don't know %
Grassroots lobbying efforts for physics funding	72	10	2	16
Promote interaction with foreign physicists	72	12	3	13
PhysTEC	67	11	3	19
Teacher Scientist Alliance	64	14	3	19
Physics Central	61	16	3	20
Career Liaisons in physics departments	58	16	4	22
Efforts to increase number of women and minority colloquium speakers	56	19	10	15
APS High School Teachers' Days at APS meetings	56	17	4	23
Minority Scholarship Program	54	19	9	18
Site visits to investigate institutional climate for women	51	20	10	19

Footnote: Respondents were asked to rate the level of importance for a set of APS member services and benefits on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1="Not at all important", 2="Somewhat important", 3= "Important", 4="Essential", 5="Don't know". The column labeled "Essential or important" include the respondents who chose both 3 and 4.

# 2005 APS Student Membership Survey

Please respond within 2 weeks

## 1. How did you first learn about APS?

- An APS website
- APS Brochure
- APS Local Section
- APS Student Poster
- Attendance at an APS meeting or conference
- Forum on Graduate Student Affairs (FGSA)
- Friend or peer
- Professor or advisor recommendation
- Promotional Email
- SPS Membership Offer
- Other (please specify)

## 2. Why did you join APS? (choose up to four choices)

- Professor recommended I join
- Friend or peer recommended I join
- Wanted to present paper at APS meeting
- Lower meeting registration fee
- View APS as my professional organization
- Physics Today
- Forum on Graduate Student Affairs (FGSA)
- Discounted car insurance
- Other (please specify)

## 3. Which of the following best describes your current status?

- I am an undergraduate
- I am a graduate student
- I am not a student

## **Undergraduate students only**

### **1. What is your student status?**

- Freshman
- Sophomore
- Junior
- Senior

### **2. What programs does your institution offer?**

- Both graduate & undergraduate programs
- Undergraduate programs only

### **3. Which of the following best describes your plans immediately after receiving your BS?**

- Seek employment
- Attend graduate school in physics
- Attend graduate or professional school in other discipline, major or area -  
please specify area
- Pursue a second bachelors degree
- I don't know
- Other (please specify)

**4. Please rate the importance of these services or benefits to you.**

	Not at all important	Somewhat important	Important	Essential	Don't know
	1	2	3	4	5
APS News	O	O	O	O	O
Physics Today	O	O	O	O	O
Attend APS Meeting at reduced rate	O	O	O	O	O
Participate in FGSA Activities & Governance	O	O	O	O	O
Online Member Directory	O	O	O	O	O
Career Website	O	O	O	O	O
Scientific & Technology Books Discount	O	O	O	O	O
One free online journal for student members	O	O	O	O	O
Email Alias	O	O	O	O	O
Group Life Insurance	O	O	O	O	O
GEICO Auto Insurance	O	O	O	O	O

## **Graduate Students only**

### **1. How many years have you attended graduate school?**

- One
- Two
- Three
- Four or more

### **2. Which degree are you currently pursuing?**

- MS
- PhD
- Both

### **3. Which of the following best describes the area you are studying?**

- Undecided
- Astrophysics
- Atomic, molecular or optical physics
- Biological physics
- Chemical physics
- Condensed matter physics
- Materials physics
- Nuclear physics
- Particle physics
- Plasma or fluids physics
- Other (please specify)

### **4. Which best describes your plans immediately after earning your degree?**

- Take a postdoctoral appointment
- Seek employment in industry
- Seek employment in academia
- Seek employment in government research lab
- Don't know
- Other (please specify)

**5. What APS Meetings have you attended in the last two years?**

- CAM 2005
- April 2005 in Tampa
- March 2005 in Los Angeles
- April 2004 in Denver
- March 2004 in Montreal
- Division meetings (please specify)
- Section meetings (please specify)

**6. Have you attended any special programs for students at APS meetings in the last two years?**

- Career workshops
- Job fair(interviews with employers)
- Lunch with the experts
- Receptions
- Student paper sessions
- Other (please specify)

**7. Please rate the importance of these services or benefits to you.**

	Not at all important	Somewhat important	Important	Essential	Don't know
	1	2	3	4	5
APS News	O	O	O	O	O
Physics Today	O	O	O	O	O
Attend APS Meeting at reduced rate	O	O	O	O	O
Participate in FGSA Activities & Governance	O	O	O	O	O
Online Member Directory	O	O	O	O	O
Career Website	O	O	O	O	O
Scientific & Technology Books Discount	O	O	O	O	O
One free online journal for student members	O	O	O	O	O
Email Alias	O	O	O	O	O
Group Life Insurance	O	O	O	O	O
GEICO Auto Insurance	O	O	O	O	O

**8. Please rate the importance of these APS programs to the physics community.**

	Not at all important	Somewhat important	Important	Essential	Don't know
	1	2	3	4	5
Grassroots lobbying efforts for physics funding	O	O	O	O	O
PhysTEC (improving education of prospective teachers)	O	O	O	O	O
Teacher Scientist Alliance (hands-on science in elementary schools)	O	O	O	O	O
APS High School Teachers' Days at APS meetings	O	O	O	O	O
Physics Central (website for the public)	O	O	O	O	O
Career Liaisons in physics departments	O	O	O	O	O
Minority Scholarship Program	O	O	O	O	O
Site visits to investigate institutional climate for women	O	O	O	O	O
Promote Interaction with foreign physicists (easing travel restrictions, int'l conferences)	O	O	O	O	O
Efforts to increase number of women and minority colloquium speakers	O	O	O	O	O

**9.Which of the following services do you use with other student or professional organizations?**

- Bulletin Boards
- Career planning material on web
- Job postings
- Listservs
- Web seminars (e.g. management, non-technical writing)
- Other (please specify)

**10. What additional programs, benefits and or services would you like APS to possibly do for students?**

**11. In what year were you born? 19**

**12. Which of the following best describes your citizenship?**

- U.S. citizen
- Permanent U.S. visa
- Temporary U.S. visa

**13. If you are a non-U.S. citizen, have you had any problems obtaining a visa to enter the U.S.? If so, please describe the situation and tell us the date this occurred (if you wish to share this information with us, it will be used confidentially by our international office which is actively working on visa issues)**

## **First Email invitation**

From: Judy R. Franz [stats2@aip.org](mailto:stats2@aip.org)  
To: xxxx  
Subject: A request from the American Physical Society

Dear xxxx:

The American Physical Society (APS) is conducting a survey of its student membership to gather feedback on member services and programs. You have been selected to participate in the 2005 APS Student Member Survey. In the past, the opinions gathered by these membership surveys were extremely useful in guiding APS leadership and staff in developing new and enhanced programs and services to better meet your needs and interests while as a student and when you enter the workforce.

I urge you to take the 5-10 minutes required to complete the online survey. If you start the questionnaire but are unable to complete it, please scroll down to the submit button and send your incomplete questionnaire anyway. Please find the questionnaire at this secure website:

<http://www.aip.org/cgi-bin/apsstud.pl?id=99999999>

Be assured that your responses will remain completely confidential. The AIP Statistical Research Center is conducting the survey and data analyses. The names of respondents will not be released in any form to APS or anyone else.

If you have any questions about the survey or if you would prefer a paper version to be sent to you, please contact us at [rchu@aip.org](mailto:rchu@aip.org) or call Raymond Y. Chu of AIP at 301-209-3069.

Thank you for participating in this very important effort.

Sincerely,

Judy R. Franz  
Executive Officer

If you do not wish to receive future electronic surveys from APS, please send an email to [membership@aps.org](mailto:membership@aps.org) with 'unsubscribe surveys' in the subject line.

## **Second Email invitation**

From: Judy R. Franz [stats2@aip.org](mailto:stats2@aip.org)  
To: xxxx  
Subject: A reminder from the American Physical Society

Dear xxxx:

Recently I asked you to take part in the 2005 APS Student Member Survey, which will help the Society evaluate member services and programs. Our records indicate that we have not yet received your response, so I would like to urge you to take the time to complete the survey as soon as possible. If you did respond and received this message in error, I apologize and please disregard this reminder. If not, and you start the questionnaire but are unable to complete it, please scroll down to the submit button and send your incomplete questionnaire anyway.

You will find the questionnaire at:

<http://www.aip.org/cgi-bin/apsstud.pl?id=xxxxxxxx>

Please be assured that your responses will remain completely confidential. If you experience any technical difficulty or have any questions about the survey, please do not hesitate to contact Raymond Chu of AIP at [rchu@aip.org](mailto:rchu@aip.org) or 301-209-3069.

Sincerely,  
Judy R. Franz  
Executive Officer

If you do not wish to receive future electronic surveys from APS, please send an email to [membership@aps.org](mailto:membership@aps.org) with 'unsubscribe surveys' in the subject line.

### **Third Email invitation**

From: Judy R. Franz [stats2@aip.org](mailto:stats2@aip.org)  
To: xxxx  
Subject: Final request from APS

Last month, you were invited to participate in our survey of APS student members. This is your final opportunity to participate in the 2005 survey before results are tallied.

As a student member of APS, you are an integral part of the future in the scientific community and we urge you to participate. If you are no longer a student, please complete the first page. If you have already submitted your response, we thank you.

If not, please take 5 minutes to complete this questionnaire. If you start the questionnaire but are unable to complete it, please scroll down to the submit button and send your incomplete questionnaire anyway. Your response will be held in complete confidentiality by AIP. Your name will never be associated with your answers.

Please find the questionnaire at this secure URL:

<http://www.aip.org/cgi-bin/apsstud.pl?id=xxxxxxxx>

If you prefer a paper version of the online questionnaire, or if you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact Raymond Chu at 301-209-3069 or <[rchu@aip.org](mailto:rchu@aip.org)>. We thank you for your contribution and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,  
Judy R. Franz  
Executive Officer

If you do not wish to receive future electronic surveys from APS, please send an email to [membership@aps.org](mailto:membership@aps.org) with your name and 'unsubscribe surveys' in the subject line.

### **Verbatim Comments for the question**

**“What additional programs, benefits and or services would you like APS to possibly do for students?”**

#### **Summary**

APS students were asked to describe additional programs, benefits and services that they think APS could provide for students. Nearly 500 APS students answered this question. The top five most-often cited items were: more resources to advise students of what classes to take, areas of study and work, and how to find jobs; more listings of jobs, post-doctoral opportunities, research funding sources, employers of physics majors; more meeting opportunities and accessible locations to meet with professors and experts who can share advice about what to study and how to find jobs; more APS help with meeting travel expenses, meeting registration, and scholarships; and free membership and publications to students beyond what is offered by APS now. Each item was cited between 55 to 70 times.

The next tier of responses included variations of the top items: more active APS involvement in finding jobs and connecting students with employers; more workshops, tutorials, study and exam guides, and ways to make physics more understandable; and more on-line resources such as customized webpages, forums that facilitate more interaction among students and between students and APS. Also among these items is the request for the APS to better publicize its programs, benefits, and services. Each item was cited between 19 to 23 times.

#### **Verbatim comments - undergraduate respondents**

1. Provide or facilitate undergraduate research grants 2. Organize undergraduate oriented seminars/meetings

A collegiate-level competition in academic physics, analogous to the Putnam competition for mathematics. (I know it's a pipe dream, but food for thought.)

A competitive exam or contest in physics or specific branches of physics, like Electricity and Magnetism, Classical Mechanics, or Quantum Mechanics, staples of a college physics curriculum, between undergraduates at participating colleges and universities. Something along the lines of the Putnam Exam, or other smaller popular mathematics competitions, but for physics rather than math.

A customized web page for EACH member across the country, where SPS student members can log in to update/modify their information, and also get important updates, news, and career advice.

A forum where students can converse about homework problems, and life in general.

A lot of this stuff is over my head and very specialized. I don't think the APS does enough to make it so that the students still just exploring physics can really understand what's going on.

additional science book discount would be nice.

Advising on graduate school for undergraduates, information on fellowships/etc

An easy access list of Summer Undergraduate Internships would be useful. A general physics publication on sub-divisions in physics to help undergraduates decide what they are interested in for their specialty.

APS currently serves all of my needs, but I do not utilize many of its services, so I have no strong opinions.

APS-sponsored summer schools for undergraduates to present important physics topics not covered in undergraduate studies.

Assistance for preparing for graduate school (e.g. Physics GRE, finding the right graduate program). This would be very useful for undergraduates. More publicity of Phys. Rev. Focus and review articles that maybe tractable for an undergrad audience.

Become more aware of the APS. More events for students to be exposed to physics, as well as guest lectures.

call me and give me a six figure career at a large corporate firm that needs a chemical engineer as their environmental advisor.

Centralized graduate school application: Apply once and have all grad schools I'm interested in look at my application

college search website (directory of colleges that can be searched to find physics programs that a person is interested in)

competitive undergrad physics problems

e-mail a list of summer REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) from the different universities

Establish a connection between companies/organizations and student.

Extend the student trial membership for more than one year.

forums, undergrad physics academic help?, more undergrad physics communication (eg more organized between SPS chapters) . . . I think it's very good already, but then again I haven't really reached point where I would need much.

free membership throughout undergraduate.

free web/video lectures textbook exchange discount textbooks

Give information on careers for students with Bachelors in physics not necessarily a graduate degree.

Give more incentives for personal projects.

grad school listings and opportunities

Graduate school reviews/rankings for specific fields in Physics. I like the awareness that APS creates about Physics, it's good to see it from multiple angles and how it is used in different ways.

Graduate school search on website

Greater free journal access

Guidance into specialized fields in physics, like for those who are looking for a research direction to follow.

have papers be accessible more easily.

Help in career making decisions

help post find internships and research. it has some but I would like it to do more

Help with grad school enrollment.

I am currently the president of the Society of Physics Students at the University of Texas. I wish APS could fund outreach programs geared to making physics fun. The plans I have for SPS include bringing back the Physics Circus and building new demonstrations.

I am studying to be a physics teacher, so this is not the right organization for me!

I believe to better help students appreciate science is to fellowship them. I know very little about what is going on in the science community, because I am not in the position to continually receive information. Also it would be nice to get more support during schooling with scholarships and lectures/conferences at school campuses. Bringing the science community to the students who are going to be future scientist, will not only help students in the field but promote others to major in a scientific field. Promoting or sponsoring physics clubs/groups is another way to ensure students that they are being supposed in their career choose by those in the scientific community.

I can't think of anything. I have been quite satisfied with APSs delivery on my expectations.

I have not been able to use the APS to its full potential yet since I have been so busy with school. As a result, I am unsure at this moment.

I haven't been a member for very long, and well, I don't know all of what APS does do for students.

I never felt that any part of APS was directed towards students, although perhaps I just never found those sections. In order to better benefit students, it would help if the usefulness to students and any services directed specifically toward them were emphasized.

I think membership should be free as long as a student is an undergraduate. It is VERY difficult to get one's department to pay for anything for undergrads, and even 30 or 40 dollars is a lot of money.

I think that before I can ask anything of you guys, my school needs to get on the ball first. However I don't think that putting effort towards rejuvenating the competitive side of physics would be a waste of time by any means. I'd like to see school contests, and not the kind of we'll reward the schools with highest students performance.. I mean like contests and competitions. Similar to HPV contests held by other organizations.

I think that the physics community as a whole doesn't really explain to undergraduates what can be done with only a bachelor's degree. Not everyone can afford to continue on to graduate work right away, and not everyone has the grades required to do so.

I think you're already doing a good job. The most important thing to keep in mind when dealing with students is that they have no money. At all. Ever.

I understand that the transition from studies to work or from undergraduate studies to graduate studies can be difficult, illusive and full of unpleasant surprises. I think this is one area in which students will be interested and grateful for the help.

I would like a subscription to the Physical Review

I would like for APS to get involved more with undergraduate student via avenues such as undergraduate research symposiums, GRE clinics, etc.

I would like help to attend graduate school. My GPA is only about a 2.6 and I expect it to remain there so assistance on becoming accepted would be great.

I would like more books like the new one on how to land a job. That book has been very helpful.

I would like rankings of graduate schools and post-doctoral positions according to gross income, living quality, research opportunity, etc.

I would like the 2005 WYP pin I never received after becoming a member in 2005. (I think it may have been promised to be sent to me in the sign up) - paul schou .com

I would like the website to actually work. I signed up for it, and it never worked for me, so I never really had the chance to take advantage of all the resources.

I would like to attend a conference to get my feet wet. i dont know how to go about, both getting there, and attending. If you updated us on this, it would be helpful.

I would like to have more local programs for students as the programs offered at a distance are very difficult to participate in during a heavy semester.

I would like to know more about the programs offered.

I would like to know what people are doing with their degrees in Physics and Engineering after they graduate.

I would like to receive a hard copy of a journal as a benefit. Offer travel stipends to present research would be nice.

I would like to see APS give information on graduate programs as well as the application process and general information for getting into grad school.

I would like to see APS give more support to undergraduate programs.

I would like to see more non-academic (and non-graduate level) job listings in the periodicals.

I'm not sure I have yet to go to a meeting

I'm not sure if my suggestions are really goals of the APS but in general, I have concerns about my future and making choices about my career after I finish my BS. It would be nice to have a website with links where one could prepare for life after graduation such as finding out what kind of job possiblilities there are for physics students with just a BS or how to start looking into grad schools or a guide for studying for the physics GRE.

Increase awareness of student chapters at universities write and market a textbook with explanations in simple english, plenty of examples, clear derivations, boxed formulas, etc.

Inform students about new research grant foundations and organizations.

Information on physics-specific scholarships for undergraduate and/or graduate studies.

Internship opportunities, scholarships

It would be nice if there were more information about graduate programs through the APS, or if there were more recruiting programs for graduate school for undergraduate members of the APS.

It's rather a large matter, but I'd like to see APS involved in the inevitable reconstruction of the entire American high school system.

I've been very satisfied with my membership, and can't think of any other programs. They have definitely met my needs thus far.

I've seen programs in this survey alone I didn't know existed! I would \*LOVE\* to use my discount on scientific literature! If anything, you should make these programs and benefits more accessible and publicize them more.

Job Listing

Keep doing what you're already doing: - Free 1 year membership to APS with SPS membership - Research career plans and outcomes of current and former physics students (and publish the results)

List very good colleges and higher institutions to study Physics and physics-related programs(eg Engineering)

Local career fairs, graduate school selection and preparation tools

Local recruiting events by professionals.

Local/Regional Meetings for students

Maintain an up-to-date listing of physics graduate programs with SEPERATE rankings on their academic reputation, difficulty in admission, and quality of student experience.

make easy access to physics reasearch publications in new fields such as particle physics if this is already offered i apologise i just have noy found it yet

maybe include overviews of different physics fields/ examples that students could understand

Mentor pairings with faculty at the student's campus. (Students usually already have faculty advisors, but this could be another avenue for advice)

Mentor program for current undergrads as they become the grad students.

mentoring programs, students could be coupled with physicists already working in APS for guidance and advising

mentor-program with local, willing professors

More events near Santa Cruz, California

more facilitating of peer cooperative research. The memberlist and meetings are helpful for finding fellow students but perhaps a section of the website dedicated to the topic.

More focus on undergraduates in APS in things such as the journals...perhaps an undergraduate column.

More free food. Access to a server (Linux) would be great it would be nice to have maple, etc on a fast cluster...

more free journals

More guidance in the financial aspect of physics, such as: government versus private funding, other careers in which physics is useful, what options in physics exist other than academia and government?

more info on choosing grad schools

More information about summer research opportunities Information and discounted prices to conferences Grant each student a voucher for one free conference

More intensive outreach to help less social students network with each other, as well as career contacts

More presence on campus in form of student organization and meetings perhaps.

more public lectures aimed at undergrads, discounted textbooks, more access to REU opportunities(or perhaps just a more easily navigable REU section/database)

More resources for finding a job where a physics degree is a requirement, because i have seen jobs that will hire physicists, but are not actual science jobs.

more scholarships

More Scholarships! Also I had no idea I was eligible for all of these benefits prior to this survey.

More specific information about employment and graduate schools.

More student presentations at conferences

More, if possible, seminars or speakers for lectures in Tx. Would be much Appreciated

Most of my interaction with APS (regretfully so) is through email announcements. I don't find much time to search through the web pages and honestly I am unsure of what resorses I am entitled to use. I think the best way to update students on new activities and information is to email links to the information. I can't say what additional services I would like because I am unaware of what services I already have. I do find that most of what I am exposed to is directed to students above the undergraduate level. I think I would like a place to find resorces and information for the undergraduate level student. I know I want to major in Physics, yet I do not know what area of the feild I will end up in or what types of things I will need to know. It would be cool to have some guidence. Things like, "You might find yourself needing to know and understand electronics and programing in physics. This is what is going on in that feild right

now and it could be headed this way..." Maybe that information is already out there, but I don't know where to look right now, and I find it hard to find the time to go searching.

My interest in physics is strong, but mostly non-mathematical. I am not a science major of any type, although the world of science has always held great interest for me. I have done enough independant reading and study to learn a great deal about physics while mostly avoiding the mathematical aspects...Physics Today helps me to push my scientific knowledge beyond simply what Scientific American has to offer. I represent a minority within the APS and so perhaps my idea of what APS should do isn't entirely relevant...however, due to my great interest in physics and astronomy but lack of a formal education in the area, I see a need for documentary material which could be made available for students who wish to explore the world of physics for themselves. Most documentaries on the subject are frustratingly simple and barely scratch the surface, failing to provide a workable understanding of basic physics concepts. Perhaps the APS could become a part of a project for this largely untapped market intermediate level physics documentaries?

notification of conferences in the area

Offer (competitive?) \_group\_ travel grants for students to attend APS meetings.

offer opportunities to attend national conferences at an affordable cost to students

Only because I am no longer a physics major, and while I would hope that everyone who pursues Physics will stick with it, it may be a good idea to see how our physics/mathematics knowledge can help in the pursuit of other career fields. I personally chose to switch to Archaeology. Within that field there is a lot of mapping, which my math skills came in handy, as well as there is geophysical testing (further study required) which is a combination of physics, geology, and archaeology.

Organize lectures of undergraduates.

paper copy of PRL

Perhaps APS doesn't need to do anything more for students in particular. Diversity is certainly important in any field, but I already feel bombarded by all the available options with AIP, SPS, Physics Honor Society, my own schools Physics and Science departments, etc. As a student, I would not have the time and ability to utilize one more resource. This isn't to underestimate what APS could do for me as a student, only that I can't imagine it would provide anything beyond other current resources. If I am mistaken, then please let me know what APS already has to offer and I will compare it briefly to other resources. That leads to one profound thing that APS could do for students - help students by simply publishing information about already-existing programs, societies, journals and other physics resources.

perhaps more info on graduate research programs

Perhaps more scholarships.

Perhaps some tips on getting into graduate school, physics GRE tips, tips on finding which field of physics research is right for the particular student interested.

Perhaps you could supplement the \$100 travel grants given by SPS to students for conference travel. As an undergrad, it's been hard for me to get funding from my school and/or from the sponsoring institution for research to attend conferences, and \$100 helps, but doesn't get you very far.

Physics software offers for students

Physics Today is an excellent general interest publication. I would like to see a yearly issue (or supplement) that deals with aspects of graduate school. For instance, you could include an article by an admissions chair on his experiences OR articles on new graduate students participating in research and how it is different than undergraduate research.

Please let us know where being an APS member is useful other than at APS-sponsored events.

Professional onsite visits to universities, career services

Provide at least one summer of APS-sponsored internships to students who were unable to get an internship anywhere else during their entire undergraduate studies.

Provide discounted rates on more undergraduate and graduate physics textbooks.

Provide funding for travel to APS or SPS conferences

Provide undergraduate opportunities and prospective graduate programs in physics and applied physics

Reduced rates for APS topical meeting registration.

Scholarships

Scholarships through APS

Setting up or posting information about physics related internships, co-ops, jobs, etc.

Some sort of grad school help for undergrads (i.e. directory of major schools and their experiments)

Some type of Graduate school or GRE wiki site, simmilar to the Yahoo groups site physicsgre which I have found to be very benificial.

Some way to get involved and know what the world of physics really has to offer without having to attend meetings.

Something to do with travel discounts?

Sponsor research for those students who do not fall into the category of women or other minorities in physics. It seems there is none, or at least not publized similiarly to those 12 or so programs which support women and minorities in physics.

Suggestions on how to start an SPS chapter

Supply a few examples of the paths taken by the average college professor of physics. Like where they went to school for how long. Personal stuff like how much they studies, what types of things they found interesting at an early age...

The CEU program is amazing. Perhaps there can be more of these types of programs.

The membership fee, although reduced, is still a hardship.

The only thing that would immediately come to mind is some programs to help students find professors with whom to do research, (IE summer internship) though I think that the SPS does some similar things.

The recent publication of starting salaries and career information was the best thing APS could do for me! things are great

Undergraduate meetings, and better organizing the APS website.

Would be great to be able to download lectures/seminars/etc. from online. Another idea might be to put together lists of highly effective textbooks for use by undergraduates in the "typical" undergraduate fields.

You could send speakers to our campus to give seminars

### **Verbatim comments - graduate respondents**

@@March meeting in hawaii @@Improve periodicals as more attractive version to students (some lottery or this weeks physics joke contest open to every body or some useful conner like Skill of asking question.... Cause every physics students are not

1. Tutorials for classes with big picture focus (it is easy to get lost in the details of a class) 2. Academic advising samples that give possible class scheduling based on your background (sometimes it is easier to see a plan than to talk to professors), 3. Mentoring or career shadowing opportunities or information for alternative careers in physics, such as working for the journals. However, I do not use APS's resources as well as I should so this information may already be out there.

A graduate student bulletin board to discuss/brainstorm on ideas involving day-to-day challenges of physics/engineering work in graduate laboratories.

A guidebook for entering grad school which includes institutional rankings by GRAD STUDENTS (or a webiste link), what to ask and see and do during a visit to prospective schools, how important it is to choose a specialty/research group beforehand, how to raise ethical questions, basically how to remain emotionally healthy and happy in this stressful time.

A lot more programs to educate and aid students in areas like career planning, choice and options available etc.

a meeting for graduate students to talk about their research areas and environment informally.

Academic Advising: Graduate program breakdowns interms of financing, minority enrollment, program requirements/institution,

Additional funding options (i.e. one time grants of a few hundred dollars, sponsorships, etc.) to ease the financial burden of travel to conferences and associated costs at conferences.

Addtional seminars/info on life after school

affordable health insurance

Aid the task of finding an appropriate Graduate School. Maybe you already do this.

all the stuff listed in question 9 are good, except that i didn't know about them until now!

Although I fully understand that funding is extremely tight in todays economic climate, more funding for student travel expenses to professional meetings would be invaluable. As an undergraduate, I presented at the 2005 AGU/AAS meeting in New Orleans. It was very difficult to locate funding for this trip. I was able to pull it off with the help of several departments on campus. However, more assistance (including information about how to apply for these awards) from APS would be great. This would possibly promote more undergraduates to become active in these types of activities.

An easy one-stop online access to Physics Today, One scientific journal and the APS membership account would be a great service. Some financial help for travel to conferences would be a nice idea (at least to a limited number of students on need basis). Workshops in universities to popularize APS in departments other than Physics, like in Materials Science, Electrical Engineering, Biology etc and thus increase the student membership and diversify it.

Announce clearly for summer schools

APS can collect data from freshly employed first time postdocs. analyze and present to graduate student in such a manner that student would be able to assess his/her position in the different strectra of first time entrants. This would make them familar with what to expect, what in addtion can one do in order to be count as better prepared for research, and how and where to approach for better career options. especially for grads whose need more help than his/her guide or insitute could provide.

APS is doing fine job for the students who want to be real physicists in future. Some other things are to make more articles of current research access online so that they can know what is happenning in the world to uncover the the mysteries of Nature.

APS needs to have a research misconduct policy and investigative procedure for looking into such allegations. At the moment, there is no reprecussion for research misconduct and no recourse to report violations.

APS should promote researchers from lesser known universities .

Arrange more seminars for graduate students by experts.

Arranging seminars in different universities with speakers pioneering the field would be helpful, also discussion about job oportunities and career related services would be great.

Arranging special meetings with professionals/experts in the same field during a conference/meeting.

As of yet, I have not had that much interaction with APS, though I have used the web site.

Assess or provide access to assessments of current areas of fundamental need and research I would love for APS to peruse other more applied magazines and sources and distill from them the compelling fundamental future science needs of the engineering community.

Assistance for GRE Physics Exam preparation. Meeting Travel Assistance.

At national meetings, a session similar to what ACS offers in their Academica Employment Initiative (AEI). Basically set up a poster session where grad students looking for jobs in academia are brought

together, so that people looking to hire in academia have easy access to them in one place. Would be nice to improve upon the ACS model which has its shortcomings.

at the current moment i have no additions to add, other than a better notification of all the benifits that are available today.

Awareness of career opportunities that exist outside of the mainstream. For example, intellectual property law and management consulting are two areas where PhDs with a scientific and/or technical background are highly sought for the problem-solving and analytical skills. Free seminars that focus upon communication skills - these are so important when it comes to finding a job and succeeding in the real world. Both oral and written communication.

Be an advocate for us. We have almost no benefits, although we do intense the work of full-time researchers, often in addition to classwork and teaching. We have no job-related ability to start saving for retirement. There are no guarantees that our advisors will make allowances for family/sick leave.

Being new to the society, I'm finding an abundance of information presently available.

better adverts for post-doc and fellowship positions

Better discounts on essential books such as Jackson, Sakurai, Griffiths, Cohen-Tannoudji, Goldstein, etc.

Better postdoc database.

Blogs or online forums for questions/discussions between students and professionals.

book discounts or lobbying publishers for access to pdfs of classic texts and creating a set of aps basic physics text books for use in undergraduate physics teaching which are available to students for free

Broader Job Finding Potentials

bulletin boards or newsgroup in your website will be great. maybe you already have on.

by letting the most influential figures in the field to write articles on how does they learn and how does they do research

can you make school tuition free :D

career counseling

Career fair at march meeting and announce graduate student events at the meeting. I have attended two APS meetings and did not know there was a graduate student reception.

career forum

Career ideas. Student publication for students to publish papers.

Could always use more job stuff, matching employers with prospects, etc.

Counseling

Create a group of thesis reviewers for students that have conflicts with their advisors about their thesis work. I notice in the graduate school sometimes students disagree with their advisors about their thesis work and is a very uncomfortable situation for the other professors have to take party in this conflicts which most of the time ends very bad for the student. I think would be good if you can count on a third party to resolve this kind of problems.

create list of major companies in industry that hire physics phds by state.

Detailed Graduate school analysis

direction on Current status or Perspectives of different fields in Physics

Discounts for books and journals

Efficiently place physics degree holders in good industry (finance and hi-tech) jobs.

encourage centralized postdoc listings.

Encourage more physics applications toward everyday life in order show a needed perspective that is seen by general public as fundamental to everyday life

encourage non speaker to attend the talk

Encourage Universities to increase stipends/funding for graduate students.

Evaluate schools for their overall "appeal" to a would-be scientist... how easy is it to get funding? Is the program strong? What research opportunities are available? Etc.

Everyone says that education of math and science are important for the country. This is in fact true. However, the position of a scientist is lower relative to a marketeer salary wise. The importance of science is not reflected in the salaries. This type of jobs are also being outsourced.

Excellent information & career mentoring

explore the realities of graduate school so that incoming students can avoid the pitfalls.

Extend the free journal subscribing for the whole graduate years.

Fellowship for international

Fellowship programs for international students.

fellowships for conference travel/attendance

Financial aids to attend conferences

Financial assistance for conference attending

Focus more on career services. Invite more companies for job fair. APS can learn a lot from ACS (American Chemical Society) in this regard. The number of companies attending APS job fair is much less than those attending ACS.

Formal/informal meetings or workshop between graduate students and junior faculty & post-docs about how to start an independent research career.

Forward anonymously to faculty APS members comments/suggestions from their students on how to improve the shared research environment.

Free access to all APS journals for student members.

free access to all online publications

free access to more than one APS online journals

Free donuts at APS meetings.

Free Journal Subscription

free membership

free membership

Free membership to APS for more than one year. The opportunity to have expenses paid to attend a conference without having to make any presentation. This is especially important for minority students who are frequently outnumbered and do not have the funding to attend every APS event.

free memembership for students

free online access to scientific journals.

Free online newsletters ( instead of \$7 fee)

Free Physics Today for all years in Grad school, more discounts in membership fee. More effort in working with goverment, (Dept of States) to loose the restriction on international researchers/stuents' visa. Visa has been the most converned issue among us international students.

Free subscription of Physics Today

Fund exceclent teachers to create free undergraduate help publications for GRE preparation and to help remediate the effects of "I had a bad professor"-blamed deficiencies in core physics curriculum. This will also reduce the financial load on students who cannot afford to purchase extra textbooks if they can't understand the one they bought for a course. This would be more effective than marketing agreements with publishers. Also, use them to prepare students and/or evaluate their preparedness for graduate school coursework. Include concnetual explanations as well as introductions to standard physics math notations. It could be an on-line workbook that you could use to evaluate students from universities independent of the GRE. It could also be used to help accredit universities. Second: Generate standards/recommendations for applied physics programs so that they adequately prepare students for industry careers. Include the most commonly used programming languages, recommendations for introductory business courses, etc..

Generally satisfied.

Get university faculty and other researchers more invovled, get universities provide opportunities to students to get more involved in APS.

Graduate Course material governing body

Graduate Student meet in different deciplines of Physics.

Graduate Student membership should be free, not just for the first year. There should be a Graduate Student arm of the APS, to address the needs of graduate students.

graduate student receptions

grant and scholarship, thesis compition or awards, international graduate students forums

great job

guide to internship programms

Have more online advanced physics textbooks for self study

Health insurance.(smaller rates and beter coverage)

Held more career related services such as resume preparation, interview skills, etc for physics related major. Academia job hosting, etc.

Help finding jobs and postdocs.

Help graduate students find funding and/or fellowships.

Help in publishing, Carrer opportunities

Help more in career development

Help pay expenses to meetings, so they are more affordable.

Help student's exchange with foreign countries

help students in searching jobs more efficiently.

help with visa

helping physicist to work in physics

hold summer conferences in cold cities, and winter conferences in warm cities.

Homework answers :)

How about a directory of physics Departments that offer advanced degrees in physics, something that is more focused to physics than is currently available from other sources. This should include information of dates, requirements and stipend for the program. This could also include some type of ranking according to different specialities... like top schools in particle physics... top schools in biological physics and so on. This would be a usefull tool for those wanting to pursue graduate studies in physics. I know I would have found it usefull in making a graduate schoold decision.

I am a year from graduating with my PhD and I have found it very hard to figure out what sorts of fellowships or funding sources are out there for post-docs and young faculty. It would be great to have a database of what is available. It would also be useful to have some sort of guidance on how to proceed from graduating to academia. Not all of us are lucky enough to have well informed advisors or departments willing to help.

I believe career services provided by APS can be of critical importance to a graduate student. I however think that the service/infrastructure is underdeveloped.

I didn't know any of this stuff was available with my membership. How about a mailing summarizing the benefits, so that I can take advantage?

I enjoyed the physics today articles last summer regarding ethics as they relate to graduate students and their interactions with their superiors. I wish there was a more comprehensive program regarding this issue.

I have attended the Job fairs in APS meetings, but they are not so good in my point of view. APS should provide more openings for Post doc positions.

I haven't really discovered so many programs that you offer until now.

I love the way APS funds the students for their travel to different meetings. APS should continue this trend and encourage students to attend more meetings.

I obtained my Bachelor's in Comp. Engg, MS in Elec. Engg, and subsequently moved to Physics for graduate studies. I am acutely aware of the uncertainty of my professional life despite my being an above average student. Such would not have been the case had I continued in Engineering. At this stage of academic life I have learnt to identify problems, but have yet to learn how to find a solution, hence my inability to propose one. Your collective self is wiser than my individual self. Please act to do the needful to ameliorate the difficulties of us graduate students with regard to perception of our future opportunities. I have read abstracts of career sessions organized by APS for students like me during APS meetings. I was not impressed by the line of discussion provided in the abstracts. Discounted Auto insurances and talks on real estate opportunities are of little help for a fellow who lives on a tight bank balance. Another point, I don't have to tell you what percentage of graduate students in the US are international students. Yet, almost none of them can qualify for the scholarships and awards. When there is no racial discrimination in academics, pray why so in scholarships?

I think that they provide enough programs and benefits.

I think this is good

I think APS membership should be free to all students.

I think I am satisfied with the way things are handled right now.

I think it would be quite helpful to have an online repository for talks and posters given at APS meetings.

I think it's pretty complete it would be nice if there were a bigger network for jobs (academic especially)

I think membership should be free for graduate students.

I think more could be done in terms of providing ways to develop job contacts with other APS members in industry. Lists of people interested in discussing career opportunities, career fairs, etc.

I think that APS should implement a suggested curriculum for physics departments. The APS should provide suggestions on modern teaching methods and subject material, with the emphasis on subject matter. This would help to bridge the gap between what students are learning and what they should know to be competitive in graduate school and industry.

I think the auto-insurance was a joke. I would like to see more lunch with the experts (two days, perhaps?).

I think the career workshop/meetings should be more focused (eg. semiconductor industry, nano-tech, bio-tech companies etc.

I think you do a pretty good job already.

I think, student of the month or somekind of focus on student community may be very much inspirational for other students at other institutes. And one scientist and his peaks during his life time may have same profound effect in aip student community.

I thought it was absolutely wonderful that I was able to give a talk at the APS 2004 meeting in Denver as an undergraduate. That SPS program should definitely continue! At ACS meetings, undergraduates are only allowed to give posters.

I thought the lunch with the experts was very useful. In general, career discussions (both academia and industrial) would be helpful.

I woould like to have a better knowledge of what career paths are available after getting a physics degree. This would have been especially helpful as an undergraduate. The earlier you know your options, the better! It would also be nice to have some easily accessible materials that would enable me to educate myself about government policy towards science with greater ease.

I would like APS help students identify sources of funding in non-typical situations---for example, outside of the usual scholarships, fellowships, and internships.

I would like APS to offer more access to Physical Review Journals for Students and for them to do more site visits

I would like for the APS to support free online access to all APS related intellectual material, including journal articles, books reviews, and conference proceedings, by advocating for the same from within and from other scientific societies.

I would like more information on what sort of careers are available for PhD physicists.

I would like more than one year of free membership.

I would like to know how the demand of each field of physics is growing, who is hiring from which field, how do overseas opportunities compare to american opportunities in physics, and also what type of opportunities exist for physicists outside of mainstream physics.

I would like to see less emphasis on women and minorities in physics. Surely we all face challenges in our career, most of which are more similar than different. As scientists we should set an example for the

world as a whole when it comes to approaching issues such as this objectively rather than though the touchy feely politically correct approach. Unite rather than divide and ironically I think you will in the process do much more to encourage women and minorities to pursue careers in science and engineering.

I would like to see more fellowships offered to students for the purpose of attending APS sponsored meetings. Also, such programs and current programs should be more widely advertised. Finally, I am not always sure how the APS is focusing its lobbying efforts in Washington. I do know an issue came up during the recent US presidential election about backing of a particular candidate. These efforts and the reasoning behind them should be as transparent as possible to APS members. There should also be a general vote before the APS supports any political group/party or specific nominee, and in general, if the APS should even get involved in politics in this way. In my opinion we should first and foremost be a scientific institution that lobbies all parties for funding.

I would like to see more opportunities for students to get involved with the lobbying aspect of APS.

I would like to see on-site resources/activities for members at universities. This might constitute a channel through which students could develop collaborations and networking that doesn't exist anywhere that I am aware of.

I would really like to see the APS try to address the lack of gender and minority representation among physicists. This needs to be done less in a passive (like special talks at seminars) and more with an active undergraduate/high school touring program designed to pique the interest of certain groups, emphasizing the positive aspects of a career in physics.

I'd like something like a "student forum". A place where you can share experiences with other students and get some advice.

If possible, I would like a course on Physics GRE

I'm not sure if there's any, but a well-organized forum for physics students would be very good.

Implement an Online Library with resources that can be accessed by the student members.

Improve information and opportunities in non-academic careers such as industry and federally funded research labs. These areas seem underserved at the careers section of APS and AIP online.

Include all materials in package with registration at conferences.

Increase the number of job postings. I realize that there are only a finite number of physics jobs at any given time, but encouraging more employers to post jobs would be a benefit. Perhaps more aggressively "sell" the benefits of posting jobs with APS or AIP (I can't remember exactly which institution the job postings are with).

Increase the professor-student interaction at APS meetings.

Increased publicity of student paper sessions at meetings (GSNP had a prize session this past March Meeting which was great)

Increase job advertisement

Industrial job opportunities

Inform students of the benefits in the first place! I had no idea that APS offered all these services until taking this survey!

Informal regional gatherings for grad students with a keynote speaker. More of a social and networking event than a science meeting.

Information about chances to study biophysics

Information/assistance/encouragement with continuing career or just being involved with non-lab aspects of physics and science in general - like politics and government, policy development, involvement in public schools, starting businesses. More focus on matching undergraduate students with graduate advisors to minimize transition adjustment time when entering graduate school.

Insurance if someone gets hurt in laboratory accident

international exchange programs, co-operative education - internships - direct industry experience programs (eg: like they do in University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada)

It will be nice to explore some opportunities for the undergraduate/graduate students to get them internships in the companies operating in the areas associated with Physics (for example, optics, superconductivity, novel materials....). So if students are notified of these opportunities through APS website or Physics today then it will be a great help for the Physics aspirants who can gain some practical knowledge and can better focus on the research areas of cutting edge technology.

It would be better if APS sponsor at least a few students from the other countries to attend the conferences, because the talented students from smaller countries get their talent wasted for not having an exposure to the scientific community, and end up doing something which is just the primitive science.

It would be great if the FGSA could reach out more to students who don't attend the March and April APS meetings. As far as we're concerned, the FGSA may as well not exist.

It would be nice if the job fair at APS meetings had more than two employers. The primary reason I attended the April Tampa meeting was to go to the job fair. It was disappointing to say the least.

It's fine as it is. I would like more information about job opportunities for international students. I would also like the society to spread more of its wings into the engineering territory.

Job Fair

Job finding guide, tips, etc. especially for foreign students in fields related to Physics

Job Hunting

Job messages as many as possible by email.

job postings

Job search, low membership fee

Job.

Just more stuff for graduate students and postdocs in general. And more stuff for the women in physics, since we still seem so outnumbered.

Keep student membership free after the first year like SIAM does.

Let us opt out of paying for your political lobbying

Liven up Physics Today a bit. Less technical papers, more FUN stuff.

Lobby for higher pay for grad students in high income areas where the standard of living is considerably more than lower income areas.

Lobby institutions for quality of life issues for graduate students. In particular, health care for spouse and children.

Low rate for the student to attend the conference.

Lower cost of membership for graduate students.

Lower the registration fee for students, and charge the reduced amount to professors. Some graduate students have to pay themselves to attend the meeting, however, all the professors can pay from their fundings.

Make 50% payment for science books that cost \$100 and over once or twice a year.

Make a committee to present Physicists view points and issues to politicians.

Make a list of available scholarships, fellowships and similar, and send a mass e-mail to the members.

Make it a bit easier for foreign physics students to get their visas, once they qualify.

Make some essential software, like Scientific WorkPlace, Origin, more affordable for students.

Making more opportunities for the students to be introduced to the job market.

Many graduate programs do not provide health care. I believe that professional societies such as the APS and ACS should develop relationships with health insure companies so that students can purchase reasonably priced health insurance.

matching program with possible employers

Maybe I just haven't been very much involved, but this survey is the first time I've heard that students can get discounts on books. Make that sort of information more readily available. In fact, how do I go about getting book discounts???

Maybe more job postings, but I see that doesn't depend on APS. Maybe some early career guidance could be good, although I am not sure how that could be done.

maybe one free dinner for students at APS meeting?

Medical Insurance

Membership application fee should be waived for students. Enough materials and resources for research  
Help to publish paper Travel funds and registration etc...

mentoring for women graduate students

Mentorship program

mixers at area universities.

Monitor statistics on, e.g. time-to-completion for PhD students. Sample satisfaction of graduate students at different institutions, publish this information.

more availability of funds to attend conferences

More awards for graduate students from various divisions

more career fairs and at more places

More career information

more career orientation programs.

More career oriented sessions. Esp with companies which don't necessarily do physics but require their skills, like biotech companies.

more career planning programs

More career programs.

More career services in industry

More career services, particularly for non-academic careers.

more conference suitable for graduate students

More employers from industry conducting interviews at general meetings (as is common for the largest yearly meeting in mathematics)

More Fellowship and Scholarship programs.

more fellowship opportunities and sponsored travel

More financial support for international students. More programs in the form of awards and scholarships that target students who are not US citizens and obtained some of their degrees outside US.

More flexible travel support.

More free dinners at APS meetings. As a married graduate student making \$18.5K per year, attending meetings are always stressful on me financially. Although I am fully reimbursed by my department, I usually do not see this money for at least a month after the meeting. Anything free (like food) at the APS meeting means the trip is cheaper (and therefore less stressful) for me. At least, it would nice if the food

prices at the conference were lower. At APS March 2005, the cafeteria was selling cans of soda for \$1.50. This is not reasonable.

More funding to attend meetings. Travel costs are going up every year!

More industrial job postings. Non-physics positions for which physicists would qualify (e.g. materials scientist, etc).

more job advertise

More job fairs

More job help

More job postings for early-career physicists

More Journal Articles other than Physics Today. Journals related to polymers and plasma polymerization would be awesome.

More mentoring would be good. I don't feel that the APS does anything for me. That may be because it doesn't advertise its activities to students well enough, or I'm ignorant, or it really doesn't do anything.

More networking opportunities with established faculty members and industrial researchers. At the receptions, most of the APS advisors give the impression that they are about to retire. We would prefer someone more in sync with the current technology and times. Even if the APS ambassadors are unestablished in their careers, for eg. assistant professors, it gives us the true picture of what lies ahead.

More non-academic careers awareness and help. Actively seek companies that are interested in hiring physics graduates, especially for non-research related work. It's hard to know where to start when one doesn't want to do research or teaching after graduating. (eg: consulting, science policy, banking...) Non-profit is almost as hard to learn about as non-research industry jobs. I know that these careers exist, but I have had a hard time learning about them. This can be done at meetings and more things through the APS web site career center. (This didn't use to be that important to me, but as I'm nearing graduation, I am looking for employment opportunities.)

More opportunites to meet experts in the field.

More programs focussing from fundamentals to advanced topics during summer and semester breaks. Also some online video lectures explaining topics like quantum mechanics etc.

More programs like "lunch with the experts", which provide student access to professionals in the field. Specifically, I wish it were easier to find a postdoc from a less-well-connected physics department.

More scholarship for student travel to conferences.

More Scholarships for foreign Students

More support for undergraduates aid in REU programs and the like for increased research efforts early in careers.

More travel awards for students to participate to conferences. This year I participated to two conferences sponsored by the APS: CAM 2005 and the April Tampa APS Meeting. Both were very useful, but the

CAM conference had better funding and it was a lot easier to attend because of that. At the April APS meeting I received a \$300 travel grant and I still had to pay the meeting fee. If the travel award is small the conference fee should at least be waived. CAM 2005 awarded up to \$600 for out of state students and that was about right.

more travel funds available. Lodging at more economically viable places for conferences.

More travel to conference/conference attendance funds or cheaper prices for poor international students. Never increase membership price for grad students! Keep up Physics Today - Awesome! Online discussion forums hosted on aps web-site? More support (monetary?) for SPS (society of physics students) if possible - They do lots of awesome work.

More tutorial sessions overall aim and structure of conferences could be better explained

Negotiate with editorial companies so that students can have Web access to scientific papers at discounted rate when not using university computers.

no registration fee at conferences

Negotiate lower hotel rates for students

Non-academic career counseling at universities: e.g. colloquia.

nothing other than maybe some more opportunity at conferences to hear from industrial research scientists if at all possible

Nothing really. I like the services provided.

Nothing...APS is doing great!

offer research fellowships/scholarships

Offer scholarships to the general public, not just minorities!

Once getting a job in academia, how to get fundings using our APS?

One thing which would be nice would be for people several (perhaps 5) years past their Ph.D. to anonymously and candidly post their career experience and advice on how to succeed in physics. Descriptions of good and bad decisions made, involving both "pure-physics" issues (problem selection, research mindset, boldness vs. conservatism in publishing, etc.) as well as "real-world" issues (choosing where to work and with whom, academia vs. national-lab vs. industry, getting funding and a good salary, etc) would be most valuable.

Online access to all APS journals, in case there are students at institutions that do not already subscribe.

Online access to physics journals, papers, etc. Online physics courses, online course reviews. Bulletin Boards for student/TA or student/professor interaction would be beneficial.

Online APS job register, organized by subfield, similar to AAS

Online database for interaction with prospective employers.

Online job list

On-line seminar used-book buying

open service which helps them to acquire writing skills for publications, provide routinely review on subjects starting from very basics and advancing on to advance concepts

Organization of information regarding post-doc and faculty job offerings.

Organize more workshops for training students (such as the couple of physics in biology workshops organized some time ago). Encourage more participation in sectional meetings and build up the FGSA on a sectional basis. Offer a confidential web based dossier service for job applications, like the mathematics community has. Improve the career website focusing on the academic job market.

Organizing workshops for students will be beneficial. For eg. I'm in Atomic physics, so workshops during summer related to my subject will improve my understanding of the field.

organizations only for the students maybe!! Conferences..

Perhaps a survey every year for undergrads that lists graduate schools and the research they are conducting and perhaps the ability to link to their sites. It is of great value to select a graduate school that is doing research that you are interested in, and the APS probably has the resources to do this.

Perhaps it is because I don't look, but APS is only something I do so I can present at meetings. Aside from a student meeting with Jill Dahlberg a couple years ago at a DPP meeting, nothing comes to mind that APS has done for me aside from discounts on meetings. Perhaps I should take advantage of the opportunities you do provide. Maybe when students register for meetings, a packet or email describing the "student activities" could be sent. Perhaps it is and I'm just oblivious to everything aside from my little world. Perhaps I don't fit the standard student model. Thank you.

Perhaps some networking opportunities?

Physics graduate students should get free membership until they graduate.

Physics Student Education Journal. A publication for graduate and advanced undergraduate students to share learning experiences and information. This could be insights into subject matter, GRE and qualifier exam preparation advice (subject specific). Shared teaching experiences that emphasize professional educational practices for novices, knowledge gained of do's and don'ts, motivational techniques for encouraging younger (and minority) students and also the public at large, and curriculum design. A place to publish interesting papers written for advanced classes that are not about truly new science (i.e. worthy of regular publication), but useful nonetheless. Allow students to help shape advanced curriculum by creating a forum for textbook reviews, helpful examples and homework problems, and current physics events such as local and national APS meetings. This could increase participation in learning advanced topics, connect advanced students across the country and beyond, train future physicists for a publication oriented workstyle, mitigate the great void of invisibility students feel before they are nearly finished with a PhD, increase native and minority graduate recruitment in the U.S., and act as a warehouse for learning advanced physics.

place to learn about industry jobs, people to help with CV or resumes, places to see what good talks or posters look like

Please provide more information about funding sources for domestic students. Also perhaps for post-doc info

Possibly hold career seminars for careers both within and outside physics at APS meetings.

possibly more job fairs. general meeting is once a year in march. students normally graduate in summer around june, it's a bit too late. another job fair around december or november would be very useful.

Poster competition for prize money. Fund some students travel expenses to meetings that cost more to travel to. For example, fund the student whose avg. flight expense is the highest.

Practical career information, especially for women. Discussions of the two-body problem for double career couples.

Produce guidelines on the role of students in presentation of scientific results. Also produce guidelines on the fair compensation of graduate students, and whether the classification of "student" is even correct in many cases.

Programs for mentorship of graduate students would be of great benefit. Both teaching professors how to mentor and providing extra guidance throughout the graduate student career for those who do not have the most effective advisors.

Programs that help physics Ph.D. students to find a career in other fields such as finance or economics.

Promote good career resources (books, etc) for careers in science and \*alternative\* post-PhD careers. Could have list of books on your website (maybe you do), workshops for alternative careers like science writing, museum work, etc.

Promote more workshops in specific areas of physics e.g. organic electronics symposium Provide programs that help grad students transition from academia to industry

provide "how to"/helpful advise on finding postdocs. (perhaps you already do this and i haven't found it.

Provide a social networking web site for physics departments (students and professors). Similar to thefacebook.com but focused on physics departments only...

Provide guidance to departments for establishing clear, explicit, transparent departmental guidelines for the graduate advisor's role and obligation to the PhD student.

provide more fund for students who want to attend the forums

Provide more funds to students attending different national and international conferences

provide more information about future job that students could pursue in the future.

provide short course web pages with notes, tutorials, problems, etc. like the ACM offers.

Provide students with more job listings not dealing with academia.

Providing Fellowships, more prizes and competitions, travel assistance, more conferences.

Providing information and guidance of job opportunities.

providing scholarships/fellowships for graduate students who're interested in getting a Ph.D. degree in Physics.

Publicize this better:

<http://www.aps.org/educ/cswp/loader.cfm?url=/commonspot/security/getfile.cfm&PageID=67759> You should be leaders in helping physicists interact with society, and with each other. Anything you can do to improve physics culture is critical. We can not continue to wall ourselves off from minds capable of participating and contributing, because of our own intellectual snobbery. We need to be increasingly interdisciplinary, and to learn to better communicate not just with the public, but with our peers in other scientific and engineering disciplines. We should be working to make science and physics accessible, not inaccessible but for a few geniuses, freaks or workaholics. We need to put our egos aside and engage others, as we are all worthy recipients of quality scientific education and discourse.

Publish guidelines and helpful hints for writing one's first paper.

Put more career or academic information online, like intership availablity, so that more students can realize the professional abilities for physics student, which might attract more talent students into physics field. I personally think this very important, because I am majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering. Every summer, there are always a lots of companies coming to campus looking for EE students for intern. If APS can enhance the communication with physical student to help them find more intern opportunities, this will be very helpful.

reduce registartion rate for students. Some times they are two high.

Reduce the annual membership or just make it free for students.

Reduced membership fee (\$57 is a llot for graduate students with families) would be great along with more dicsount rates on travelling and accommodation abroad.

reduced membership fee for postdocs/junior physicists

scholarship

scholarship

Scholarship opportunities for foreign student with temporary living at USA

scholarship, funding opportunities

Scholarships and merit-based awards

schoolarships

Sometimes it's hard to go to meetings in the middle of the school year maybe summer meetings could have some student opportunities to encourage them to take a break from sitting in the lab and actually get a vacation! :)

Special Post-doctoral placings for minorities

sponsor funding for APS meetings

Sponsred fellowships (Mass Media, Public Policy) are important

Start making noise about the inequality about the humanities over Science. Students are tuned for the easiest ways to get through education. An "A" in Physical Education is equal to an "A" in science and the difference in difficulty is well known, and educators vie for students. Students swarm around over the less difficult agendas. Too much weight is placed upon GPA's which has become a non-meaning to every one but the academic. Too many schools are ranked as "Answer Factories" and students are forced to do the minimum to get by needing the GPA in order to get to be able to advance to the higher degree advancements. I graduated as the sole physics student in a class of 1400(?). The first one to graduate in Physics in four years ! ! ! My fellow graduates told me it was too difficult to get a Physics degree! You be the judge. I find that most new students are not prepared for physics courses. Their study habits are based upon skip reading and banal English subjects. Often they are given assignments in the humaanities of several hundred pages at a time while in physics, five pages can be a career. It is astonishing that their organizational skills are humanitarian outlines. Their familiarity with test equipment are not based on stupidity but more on unfamiliarity (ignorance). You have to put it in terms of computer skills or English types of outlines. Simple tools and manual dexterity and familiarity should have occurred before entering science laboratories. Often they are very familiar with principals but proving formula puts them at a loss. There is not enough Mathematical subjects in their graduation requirements. There is a misunderstanding that they must prove the theorems before they can use them in proofs.

Statistics about employment, career guidance, salary information

Still new . Cannot say anything now about the numerous APS activity.

student and professor meet through APS

Student competition in oral and poster presentations, just like MRS does.

student discount and free journal

Student meetings and get-togethers to communicate with other physics students.

Student sessions at meetings - talks designed to provide an overview of different branches of physics. More career guidance and networking.

Students need a more direct liaison for job placement other than networking and handing out resumes at conferences. Students would also like a greater discount for journal subscriptions and conference registration fees. This would help offset the rise in the cost of living.

Students should have free access to all of the APS online journals.

Summer Workshop

survey of careers/positions obtained by PhD graduates based upon university - ie Stanford graduates populate Ivy League faculty positions or MIT sends x people into industrial research - these kinds of statistics might be useful to physics students considering graduate school

Textbook discounts with major publishers all year, not just around the time of APS meetings. Special refereed graduate student paper sessions/competition at APS meetings where acceptance/judging of abstracts/presentations is determined by a panel of graduate students.

The APS needs to aggressively pursue increasing travel support for graduate students, especially those in theoretical physics and those from programs with less resources.

The best, possibly the only important thing APS can do for college & grad students is improve their high school physics and math education, possibly through teacher outreach, but more likely through lobbying state and nat'l governments for fundamental change in the public education system. Though there are exceptions, as a group US high school graduates tend to be severely handicapped in their mathematics skills, and they do not overcome this limitation. Perhaps they ultimately learn the language of physics, but most never so fluently as foreign students. On a much more minor point, I wonder if students and graduate programs might benefit by some sort of collaboration between ETS and APS (regarding the GRE)?

The Career Consultants at ACS seem like a good program, it might be nice to have physics-focused career helpers. ACS also has a collection of good descriptions of different jobs that chemists do and what training is involved and other details. It would be helpful to have something similar at APS.

The career program, which is very important for students approaching to complete the program.

The job fair at the last March Meeting was very bad. I think you should stress to companies to send technical people to the fair, not just their HR employees. It's hard to tell them how broad a degree in physics is when they believe that we should be pigeonholed like engineers into a particular job.

the meeting should be better organized. And i hope that APS can help more graduate students participate.

The meetings are sometimes too much over the students heads. I know these are professionals in their fields but they jump right into the very technical subjects and students get lost. They need a few seminars or tutorials that really start at the very basic level, possibly at the senior, undergraduate level as a common base. In this way, it will be understandable even for the brand new graduate student just coming out of undergraduate school.

The most important thing is to make physics community aware of ethics issues like dealing with graduate students. Make certain limits on time a graduate student should spend in Prog.

The principles and basis of physical phenomena or a tutorial of physics.

They should circulate the post doctorate position and job availability (if possible) in different school or lab with a separate magazine.

this ok. more and more document regarding the current activities in the field of students interests will be good.

To coordinate internship programs and/or summer jobs at research institutes and universities for people exploring the possibility of starting graduate studies

to organize a physics 'postdoctoral' society which help to protect right and promote collaborations among young physicist

travel funds

travel grants or subsidiaries for attending APS meetings or conferences

Traveling discount

Try and find scholarship money for students with disabilities. I have dyslexia and ADD. Or, in general try and offer more scholarships for as many physics graduate students as possible.

Try to award the best work of graduate student and undergraduate student separately every year. This will encourage students to compete better.

Try to make the F-1 visa easier to get.

Uniting students in some way really allows students the opportunity to build some sort of community. Maybe a biannual student newsletter.

Unsure. I was surprised at the number of programs available. I had no idea so many programs were available!

Ways to get to know one another. Ways to communicate with other members (mailing-lists, fora). It would be very useful to have a public site for students to rate the schools they have attended and tell others about their good and bad experiences. It would help other students with choices and the necessary enquiries. Most of the times international students pick a school on the basis of what is advertised in the school brochures and web site. But there is no guarantee for the reliability and validity of this information which is sometimes deceptive. A public database where students share their academic experiences would contribute to protect a vulnerable branch of the society, namely all students.

Website with job postings. Document with guidelines on publishing / sessions with experts. This is especially relevant for students starting out, with no experience of publishing in journals.

What caused me the biggest strife as a graduate student was trying to make ends meet on a student salary. This was in Canada, but applies almost as strongly in the States .... it would be good if the APS could somehow help lobby to increase student salaries (though I know this is all but impossible).

Why don't you start a physics chat room

Work in conjunction with the NSF REU program to help establish more of them at other universities, and post relevant information on the internet for easier access.

Work with the mathematics community more. Encourage programs and opportunities in undergraduate and graduate education that would allow students to study both physics and mathematics. (At my undergraduate university, the physics and math departments did not get along at all, and consequently double-majoring in these departments was like living a double life.)

Workshop for job interview, and job hunting in specific areas such as biophysics, chemical physics, industry, etc.

Workshop on job hunting.

workshop on promoting science education and ways to organize programs or exhibitions in Physics field for public and specially K-12 students, like setting up a Physics center, workshops on applying for jobs specially for international graduate students

Workshops/panels on topics of interest to students. (While these activities may occur at big APS meetings, they do not occur at Division meetings. This was the first year that the DPP had a student reception.) Topics could include: non-academic careers, CV/interview tips, what it's really like to be a professor/govt lab employee/etc.

Would be nice to have more up-to-date information available in a central location about all sorts of post-PhD career options, especially outside academia.

### **Did not answer student question**

internship placement/job placement

The job fair at the March 2004 Montreal meeting was entirely useless: meager offerings and redirection to web site links. I had great difficulty finding work as I was finishing my research. I think my largest failings in graduate school were: (1) failing to identify a field that I knew I wanted to pursue, and (2) failing to develop a professional network. ----- Overall, I think that my training as a physics student has been adequate in the methods of physics and research. However, my training as a scientist greatly benefited from various programs that became available through non-APS programs, such as CAPES (Career Advancement Program for Scientists and Engineers), which brought in speakers such as Rick Reis (Tomorrow's Professor mailing list) and Feibelman (author of "A PhD is Not Enough!"). The physics graduate student organization at Cornell has recently organized many discussions on topics that I would have found useful, such as: finding a postdoctoral position, "Insights on a research career in industry" / "Getting a Job (outside academia)" unfortunately, I have been away from campus, so I could not attend those events. ----- OK, I understand you may not want to read a long story, so bear with me for a few more pages until I get to the point. ----- If I recall correctly, the National Postdoctoral Association's survey (whose Bob and Alice stereotypes greatly offended some of you, I hear) suggests that postdocs who hold appointments in organizations with greater institutional structure tend to be more satisfied with their experiences, tend to be more productive, and tend to publish more than their counterparts at places with less institutional structure. At this time, the success of graduate training depends to a great deal on the advisor. APS should provide some institutional structure to dispense advice for both undergrads and undecided grads for the big questions: choosing a research field and choosing an advisor. How can this be done? Well, much of the National Academies' (2000) "Enhancing the Postdoctoral Experience" report would be useful for many senior undergraduates entering grad school and first-year graduate students this should be required reading. (Their mentoring report would also help both givers and receivers of graduate education.) ----- Word-of-mouth among peers is not a sufficiently reliable method --- especially among shy, socially-awkward geeks --- to provide time-tested advice. If everyone says that many postdoctoral appointments or jobs come from personal contacts or networking, it would be useful to provide such advice, perhaps in the form of a pamphlet: "Networking for Physicists". This, stapled to the pamphlet: "Advice for First-Timers at the March/April Meeting" should come free, automatically to every first-time student conference attendee. What advice would this second pamphlet contain? (1) Don't try to go to all the sessions. Don't be daunted by the thick abstracts CD-ROM you are holding. (2) If you are undecided about fields, try to attend the plenary sessions (30- or 45-minute talks) the 15-minute talks are intended for specialists. (3) Talk to presenters who seem interesting. A major reason why the March/April meetings aren't just virtual presentations is that the physical format fosters introductions and meetings that wouldn't be possible over the Internet. Most speakers won't bite. Introduce yourself by saying, "Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ [optional institutional affiliation]." and follow immediately with a compliment and then a question about the content of the person's poster or presentation. (4) Go to things you are interested in, not what you think you should be interested in. Then, find someone with whom you can discuss what you have seen. ----- One small point: when I was an undergraduate at Caltech, I did not know that the Society of Physics Students was a professional society. The name sounded too casual or geeky. In retrospect, I should have joined. The SPS could benefit from more professional activities perhaps absorption into the APS. ----- Overall, when I was an undergrad and grad student, I think I would have benefitted from greater exposure to better-packaged career

resources and advice. Since less than 10% of undergraduates major in physics, many career offices have no idea what physicists can offer and what directions they can go. Perhaps APS can step in to fill that role.

### **Verbatim comments for the question**

**"If you are a non-U.S. citizen, have you had any problems obtaining a visa to enter the U.S.? If so, please describe the situation and tell us the date this occurred (if you wish to share this information with us, it will be used confidentially by our international office which is actively working on visa issues)**

### **Summary**

There were 261 responses to this question. The most common problem that respondents cited was a delay in their application for a visa to enter the U.S. 48 respondents reported delays from 3 weeks to 2 months. 26 respondents reported delays beyond 2 months. Also, 32 respondents were apprehensive about making plans to exit the U.S. because they did not feel confident that they could return to the U.S. in time or at all for continuing their studies or research.

### **Verbatim Comments - undergraduate respondents**

At the time of my coming into the US, there was little problem, but the process, if I remember correctly, was a bit slow.

Currently have H4, will need F1 for graduate school.

I am waiting on INS to call me for an interview but it has taken a long time for them to call me. I just wish I was a U.S. Citizen.

I had problems getting a visa. This was 4 years ago when I was planning to come in the United States as an exchange student. I got the visa after the 4th trial. I understood that because many students had not returned in their home countries, then the policies had become more restrictive. However, I think this is not enough to judge the application of future students. I got the visa eventually and after my exchange year ended, I went back in my home country. I know there are still many problems with visa applications.

I was denied on my first attempt to come here for study purpose and the thousands of others that are denied are most of the times denied without any genuine reasons. We all understand security concerns but also should be given the opportunity to acquire knowledge wherever we choose to do so. I know it's a sensitive issue but thousands of innocent and knowledge -seeking students are being deprived everyday. I was denied an I-20 visa in 2003. My country of origin is Liberia, a country historically close to America but has not gained much from her continual and persistant alliance with America. No other country has voted consistently in the US favor at the UN as Liberia. I don't mean to be political but my fellow students are trying beyond imagination to come here for school.

It was not a big problem but time consuming.

No problems obtaining a Green Card, just took several years to be accepted.

No. But it is a problem for me to get scholarships/funding etc. even though i go to an American undergrad insititution i am ineligible for many physics intership or scholarship opportunities :(

Waited a long time, that's about it

yes I waited for 2 months in 2004 to get my visa in my first year study in US

## **Verbatim Comments – graduate respondents**

1 month delay in 2002

1. It takes way longer to obtain a US visa than a visa of any other country 2. Fingerprinting is outrageous.

Absolutely not! Planning to ask U.S. citizenship Janaury 2006

Administrative process took about 3 weeks (after an interview) to get F-1 visa. November 2005.

After long interview and many related unrelated question answer I got visa.

Almost every student in China who wants to come to US has some problems with visa, even those students who have already been US for several years. Usually we need wait for one or two month to get a visa if we are lucky. This is a very bad situation to those students who come back to China just for a short vacation. Also I know some professors in China cannot attend meetings in US, e.g. APS or ACS. This is especially disappointing.

Almost no problems.

Already answered on an email concerning this issue: not too much trouble, the usual hassles...

Although I did not meet this problem myself,many of my friends met this problem. Some of them even lost the chance to pursue the degree in USA. For me,I always worry about the international travel and even go back home country for family reunion.

Although I haven't had any problems myself, a lot of my friends have had visa problems. One of them couldn't come to America because he couldn't get a Visa. Others were chosen to be security-checked when they went back to China to visit their families. Their travel plans had to be changed and their researches were affected.

Am from Germany, no real problems before and not even after 9/11, very amazed how open and inviting and nice this country is compared to my own - awesome. Before 9/11: took over a month to get visa. Then the personal interview process after 9/11 actually made me get my second visa much faster. However, it got twice as expensive to apply for a visa now.

Any problem to get a visa.

As a Canadian I have not encountered any problems.

As a Chinese citizen, obtaining a visa to enter U.S. is always problematic. Lots of students get stuck in the embassy and have to be checked for several months. This delays everything. I sincerely hope APS can help its membership to handle the problem.

At present , i am at usa.

Aug.2003, my first visa application, rejected. Dec.2003, second application, got security check for one month.

Because of the very unfriendly Visa application situation, I haven't been back to China to visit my parents for over four years. Several times I planed to be back, my advisor and the international advisor at my

university gave me warning not to do so. I will be back this winter, however, it will be very likely that I will experience a security check delaying my trip back to study

Before I came USA, I thought it was difficult to get a visa. But since I am a graduate student in USA now, I have no such problem any longer.

Being a F1 student, there is always a risk to travel back to US because of the VISA problem. I didn't receive any comfortable information about that, so I didn't go outside of US during the last five years.

Coming from Canada, I did not have any problems to enter U.S.

continually present within territory

Delay be a month to obtain appointment in embassy in February 2003

Did not leave the country for the fear of visa denial during re-entry.

Didnot have trouble to get visa for me, but for my wife, visa was turned down once without specific reason. But later it was granted.

difficult

Entered US in 2000. No problems.

Even I have not had any problem to abtain the student visa so far, travelling out of the stats has always been a big concern to me if I plan to go to any international conference or visit my parents.

experienced no problem with visa.

F-1 07/18/2003

First time coming to the US, it took my clearance 40 days to come (May-July 2003). Now, I'm afraid to return back to visit my family because there is no guarantee that I can get a visa to come back to the US to continue my studies.

For a non US citizen, it is difficult to get the visa, especially from poor country even if the applicant is calibre. In my case in 2004 fall, it was little easier but still so many pre-cautions and preparations.  
Unnecessary questions and concerns during interview.

Fortunately, I didn't have any problems at all but I know people who did. The primary concern of the visa officers should be the legitimacy of the student applying for the visa, not the 'intention' of the person concerned after he has had earned his degree which can be quite a few years down the road.

Fortunately, I didn't have trouble to get US visa until now.

Getting student visa for my masters and Phd. program was not very difficult.I hope this trend of getting international students,who are really interested in doing basic research, continues.

got an F-1 Visa June 2004 (in Germany) , no problems, but much administrative effort and burocracy

Got backgroup checked on Dec.2003 when applying VISA to enter U.S.

got security check when I tried to renew my visa in the past summer, July/2005 got the visa about 3 weeks after that

Green Card holder. Visa obtained before enrollment in US Grad school

Had no problem so far

hard to get a U. S visa

Have not tried but afraid I would be checked for long period since one of my classmate have to wait for half year to get back.

have to go through a series of security check/interviews & reports which sometimes take more than 1-2 hours during enter/re-enter into US

I actually did not have any problems obtaining a visa to enter the US, and I obtained it in 1999

I am a citizen, but I have several friends who have had serious problems in getting or renewing their visa. This is even the case for those with established jobs and work permits. It is not unusual for someone with a valid work permit to lose their visa, thus allowing them to work in the US, but not to enter!!!

I am a US citizen, however my wife -- a Nuclear Engineer and an Italian citizen -- has had tremendous difficulties when trying to renew/change her visa status in this country, almost entirely due to slow pace of INS work, but also due to an astonishing incompetence of INS officials.

I am an expired F1 visa but a valid I-20. But I am afraid that I may not get it renewed if I want to renew it.

I am fine. but it does take time and effort to well prepare it.

i am from india....had no problems getting visa

I am from Nepal. The visa application fee is raising up at least each year. The \$300.00 (all together) for a student of a Dollar-poor country like Nepal has been already too much. I expect no more raise. Visa application fee is too high for Dollar poor country.

I am from Pakistan. It is becoming very hard to get US visa for Pakistani students.

I am from China, and obtained my visa easily for twice. However, it is very very high risky to apply US visa in China. I hope you can better the situation and it is very important for Chinese students to pursue their PhD here in US: you can expect almost nothing to get a PhD in China.

I applied for a visa extension at Mumbai, India in Jan 2005. I was required to have an additional security clearance. I was fortunate that the clearance came within 3 weeks.

I applied for visa on July 7, 2003. On August 26 I received an email informing me that I had been cleared for visa but that I needed to bring new I-20 forms for me and my family because the I-20 forms they had had expired (In fact I had received the notification email one day after the expiration of the I-20 forms). When I informed the university about the situation they told me that I had to wait until April of next year to get new I-20 forms. In May 26, 2004, I received a call from the US embassy informing me that I was cleared for visa and that I needed to bring my passports to get the visas. When I arrived there I was in for a surprise when an immigration officer denied completely that I had received any call from anybody at the embassy. Not only this but he categorically denied that I had submitted my new I-20 form, though he

admitted that both my wife's I-20 form and my son's I-20 were in the file. I tried to explain to him that this doesn't make sense since the file was checked three times by three different people at the embassy but he just didn't want to listen. Then a second immigration officer proposed to help. He asked me to let him check again if my I-20 form was indeed there and quite surprisingly after a couple of minutes he found it. But he explained that now I needed to give them my biometrics and wait for a few more weeks to get yet another clearance, but he promised that this time everything was going to be fine. After a couple of months I finally got the visa stamped on the passports but after about 13 months from the first time I applied for it.

I applied my visa twice when I visit my family in China, on Dec. 2001 and Nov. 2005 respectively. My application were put through security check every time, and it took 30 days and 28 days. My return were delayed for about one month everytime.

I applied on May 28, 2004, and the visa was checked till July 1.

I came from China. Visa is a big problem for all chinese.

I came in 2001 and had no problems at the indian consulate office.

I came to United State in 1995 from Iran, I did not have any problem at that time, but I am afraid to leave united state and having difficulty to come back. I could not even go back to my country in 2004 when my mother was suddenly ill, and she passed away, this regret will remain in rest of my life that I could not go visit her in her last hours and she did not see me as either.

I can't just single out an incident. However, the activities at US embassies in foreign countries are orchestrated in such a way that a student wishes he had not committed himself/herself to further studies in the US. Their tactics/rationale, I believe has been, to humiliate students enough in order to discourage them from ever applying to US schools.

I did have any problem with my visa when I first came here 6 years ago. But I have heard that a lot of Chinese can not come here to study because they can not obtain their visa.

I did have some trouble in 2004 when I tried to renew my F-1 VISA in Beijing, China. I applied in early January, and waited until mid Feburary for the Background check process. Just because of that, I missed classes for nearly two months, and more important, the 2004 March meeting. I really appreciate that APS is working on this issue.

I did not have a problem but watching other people got stuck outside US discourage me from going outside US for both career or recreational purposes

I did not have any problem for the first time but now my visa had expired and I am scare to go back and renew it.

I did not have any problem getting the visa. But I know that some of my friends who applied for visa at the same time period in 2002 were denied.

I did not have any problems (I obtained my visa prior to 9/11/2001)

I did not have problem. But many of my collegues do have problem.

I did not obtain a problem but that was 3 years ago.

I didn't have any problem so far, however I always feel that pressure on me. My visa will expire in a few months and I will have to apply to extend it since I need another year to complete my study. I hope I won't have any problem that time.

I didn't have any problems with obtaining my visa but once I visited a city close to the Mexican border. My visa was expired but I had not left the country and my I-20-SEVIS were current. I was very surprised that we were stopped and the officers didn't know at all how F-1, or other non-turists visas worked, they were claiming that I was illegally in the country and were really rude.

I didn't have any problems. That was before 9-11 though.

I entered the U.S twice. The first one is in July, 2001, and my visa application was checked for 14 days the second time is in June, 2005, and I was checked for 35 days.

I entered the US on a student VISA. It was an ordeal, had to wait overnight outside the embassy to ensure that I would get my turn to apply for a VISA. The procedure, I hear, has vastly improved and been streamlined since then,

I first came to the states in Aug 2002. Visa application is fine at that time. I went back to China to have a visit of my parents in winter 2003. It was really hard for me to obtain a visa to return U.S. at that time. Anyway, I have an impression that student visa is hard to obtain in China, even if you already spent several years studying for PhD in the states.

I got "background-checking" in 2002 when I came to US. The checking took a month. One of my friends' checking took 9 months. Being scared of long time checking, I haven't gone back to home for three years. I decided to go home this December. I am almost sure that I will be checked since my major is nuclear physics, and I will see how long it will take. I understand the importance of US home security, but I really hope the checking could be processed when we are still in US. Graduate students normally have a tight schedule, especially for those experimentalists who are doing team work. The long time visa delay is really unaffordable.

I had a five month delay in getting my F-1 visa. It was May-October 2002, Russia.

I had a problem with my visa when I came back school as a graduate student. I left school in summer of 2000, then I volunteered as a missionary for my church. My visa was changed from F-1 visa to R visa. However, when I came back to school in summer of 2002, my visa did not change back to F-1 properly. Then I had to drop all my classes during the summer to renew my visa outside the U.S.

I had a visa problem on July 15th, 2003. The visa officer checked my visa for two months so that I missed flight to get back to do summer research project.

I had applied for visa in 1991, I did not get visa. I was admitted in Louisiana State University and University of Nebraska. I was admitted to do physics major, for what I had applied. Since I did not get any kind of tuition waiver and scholarship, my visa was denied. Had I got visa that time I would have graduated with Ph.D. in physics seven years before.

I had difficulty to renew my student visa last April when I visited home in Taiwan. Initially, I was told by the US embassy in Taipei that they cannot issue a new visa to me immediately, and they need to send my case back to the US Dept. of State for further approval. They said it could take two weeks or even a month, but turned out that it took three and half months. During that period of time, I didn't know a real person that I can speak to, and have no information about the progress of my case. It was very frustrated

and disturbing, not only because I missed an APS division meeting and a very selective summer school, but my experiment was brought to a complete stop for four months. This issue eventually caused a five-month delay on our experiment, since I had to spend one month to fix my experiment apparatus after I got back. My advisor also tried very hard to help me out of this trouble. After he failed to convince the embassy in Taipei, he then turned to ask for assistance from the President of my University. However, they couldn't even find my case number or related information before I finally obtained my visa. Apparently, the whole system just became too bureaucracy and unfriendly to international students after 911.

I had some hassle, but no actual problems obtaining a visa

I had the prior research assistantship along with admission letter, so it was not really a problem to get an F1 visa.

I had to wait for a year after applying for visa to get my clearance and come the US. I cannot go back to my country to visit my family because it's too risky and I might not be able to get a new visa to enter the states again.

I had tremendous difficulties getting my F1 visa (between 1995 and 1997). I hence missed several opportunities and severely delayed my career advancement.

I had two unfortunate experiences with visa applying to US, and these are the only two I tried also. I was being checked for a month for both times. This checking time seriously delayed my research schedule.

I had visa denial in summer 2003 when I first time applied for F-1 visa in Moscow Russia, I finally obtained visa after applying two months later

I have applied visa to US twice. The first is in the year of 2003 when I applied a J visa to Caltech for a school program. Because it was the year of second Gulf War and SARS prevailed in the South China, I have been to the American Consulate ten times before getting the visa successfully. The second time is 2004 when I applied an F visa to come to University of Maryland for my graduate studies. It takes 6 weeks for them to get clearance from Washington. Before getting clearance, I have to wait for 6 weeks.

I have been under security check in 09/2001 and they wanted to do the clearence again this year when I have been trying to renew my visa in Canada. I had to close my application, fly directly from Canada to my home country and reapply for visa.

I have come US twice. Both time been checked in one month for the visa.

I have F-1 visa. I got checked for one month when I went to my homecountry to renew my visa at the end of 2003.

I have got an F1 visa to first come to the US for PhD program in June 2003 (it took 6 weeks for me to get visa). My visa expired in July 2005 and I have decided not to apply for a new one because for that I would have to leave the US and the process of getting a new visa might take unpredictably long time(it might take 2 weeks, or 6 weeks, or 6 months), and I won't be able to enter the US to continue my program until I get a new visa. I'm especially concerned about the time it might take for me to get a new visa because I'm at Nuclear Science and Engineering department and my papers almost for sure would have to undergo clearance. It would be great if there will be any changes in policies of getting visas renewed for students who are continuing their program.

I have had a lot of problems obtaining a visa to enter the U.S. I was discriminated at US consulate in Russia because of my profession. It happened at September 22nd 2005 at Yekaterinburg US Consulate (Russia). My wife is economist and she have gotten F-1 multiple visa at the same day of interview. At the same time it was said to me that I need security clearance because I am physicist. It took 21 business days. I could not attend my school at needed time. It splitted my family for one month. It affected on my research at University. Finally, I have gotten one entry visa. I want to visit my parents twice a year and I have to visit Europe because of my research, but each time I need to get visa again. It makes my life and my work harder.

I have had no problems obtaining my visa, however, I have been held with no explanation at Kennedy airport for 2 hours while my passport and visa were checked in a special room. After it was checked, I was given no explanation for the delay, but I was allowed to continue on my journey.

I have no problems obtaining one, but just bothered by the delay and very short effective period. I wanted to go to UK for a conference, but I cannot get a UK visa because my US visa expired after 6 months of issuance.

I have not been able to leave the United States and visit my home country and family since I came here four years ago because I am afraid of not being able to get a visa when I apply for one abroad.

I have not had any problems obtaining VISA. Since I came to the US as a student, my schools have always taken care of the paperwork so that I would not have any problems

I have not left the US since I arrived here in 09/2000

I have not personally had trouble obtaining a visa, but my husband who is German has, ultimately affecting my career as a physicist in the US. My husband went back to Germany in September 2002 to finish his expedited H1-B application. He had expected to return to the US within 3 months because he had paid to expedite the application. We did not however expect that because he was born in Syria he would need a background check that would end up taking 6 months to complete. He came to visit me at Thanksgiving 2002, and at the Detroit Metro Airport they sent my husband back supposedly for overstaying a tourist visa, but later we found out they put into his file a charge of "601C" which is a charge of misrepresentation and lying to the US government and carries with it the punishment of never being granted a visa to the US. We have been trying to fight this ever since and are currently still waiting on a decision from the Department of Homeland Security to grant him a spousal visa. My career as a physicist in the US is hinging on this decision.

I have not traveled for a very long time due to uncertainty in visa processing

I have not. But I've heard many of such circumstances and tried to refrain myself from going back home.

I have U.S. visa that will expire December 28, 2005 and I have to visit my country (Russia) at this winter break (Dec. 12 - Jan. 10). So I have to renew my visa. I'm going to give in all needed documents in the US embassy (Yekaterinburg) at Dec. 16 or Dec. 19. Could you help me to get a visa as soon as possible, because sometimes it takes much time.

I haven't encountered a real problem but the situation has "successfully" deterred me from temporarily returning my home country since 2002. For once I go back home, there is no guarantee that I will get visa to return to my physics program. And there is this "security background check" that could last as long as one cannot even imagine. Indeed I have seen many cases going the miserable way. Students go home, but could not come back to school in time, either due to visa rejection (though they have been in

the U.S. for years and goes home regularly during breaks), or due to months-long background check. their advisor could not wait that long and gave their funding to other students. then they no longer have a reason to return to U.S. to continue their study. So many horrible things are torturing my wish to see my home country.

I haven't had problems so far, but my visa was issued pre-9/11. On january 2002, when I was coming back into the country, I was detained for a little while, I was let go quickly but my I-20 was taken away, so my school had to issue a new one when I got there. My school wasn't sure why my I-20 was taken. It hasn't happened again. I need to renew my visa before August 2006.

I hesitate going back to visit home for the fear of loss or delay in reentry visa

I never had any problems to obtain a visa or to enter the U.S., but the burocracy incresed a lot in the last two years. I don't feel welcome in the same way that I used to feel in my first years here (2000-2002).

I visited my country (Colombia, South America) two years ago (December 2003) and I had to renew my F-1 visa. The only trouble was that it took very long, more than 3 weeks and I had to buy a new airplane ticket to return to the U.S. I am going to my home country again this december (2005), I hope the speed in which they issue new visas has improved.

I was denied the visa first time in 2001. Then my advisor suggested me not going back to china because of visa issue.

I was lucky with my last two visa applications and I got them both. But I only went back home twice in four and half years in US because of the complicated procedures of the visa applications. So even though I did not get rejected for visa I am affected by the situation indirectly. I really hope it can be easier for an international student, especially an asian studnet, to go home in the future.

I was refused visa twice before I finally got it even though I have a assistant ship and everything. It was even pre 9/11 case. Right now my status is legal but visa expired. I could not take risk to go back to my country because right now I do not feel it is worth risking my PhD. Because being a Pakistani national I am not sure that I will get my visa in time. As the so-called security clearances sometimes take more than 3 months as happened with other fellow students coming now to U.S. I also have to decline a visit to Germany for research collaboration because coming back to U.S.A could have been a big problem for me.

I'm a Canadian citizen and don't need a visa. But the immigration officials at the border make it clear every time I go through that I am not welcome in this country. This has been especially true since 9/11/2001. It has been so insulting that I have serious reservations about staying after I get my PhD.

I'm from China. When I applied for F-1 visa before I attend March 2004, I was delayed for 3 monthes!

In 2000, it took about six months to obtain an Optional Practical Training visa. But I never had a trouble obtaining F-1 (student) visas.

in 2003 beijing, china i was rejected 3 times in my applications for US visa.

In 2004 I waited for my renew visa for 4.5 months. I have passed succesfully through the interview at the end of December 2003 and received the visa only at the middle of April 2004.

In Aug. 2005,I was delayed for obtaining my F1 visa for about 3 weeks. This used to take only one day for students from Taiwan. As I was told, my applicaton and supporting materails, including my thesis and

resume required by the government, was sent to the department of state in DC for further review. This delay almost caused my inability to attend my PHD program.

In China the visa officer will likely hold the visa for 'check' (especially so called sensitive research areas), this delays the application time usually for about half to one month.

in general it is difficult to renew visa's.

In July 2000, I first applied for my visa. After two-weeks check, I acquired it. On Dec. 10th, 2004, I renewed my visa. After four-weeks check, I acquired it.

In my first visa, I did not have any problem since all the paper work started before 9-11, however for my second visa I have spent a lot of time (and money) following some of the security procedures that were implemented after 9-11. I do not see a problem to get my new visa, but the time and money that I have spent could be a difficult situation specially for students. These kind of problems or delays will reduce in the future the interest of potential students to pursue a degree in the US.

In summer 2004 when I tried to renew my visa I was delayed in my home country for about four weeks since when I said that I am studying "Plasma Physics" and "Laser Plasma Interaction" the person at the embassy decided that this required an "Enhanced Security Check". This is after I have already been in the US for five years, going in and out once or twice a year.

It has been very difficult to get US visa if the visa officers find out our projects are related to, say, quantum well/laser/information... I think this is totally ridiculous.

it is quite difficult to get US F1 visa although I have full financial support from the university. The counsellor always question the purpose of my application. It happened in year 1999.

it takes too much time...

It took longer about 3 weeks in January 2003. I am a Christian from Indonesia. I heard others took 1 -3 months.

it took so long to get a visa

It was a clear delay (two months) due to the lack of knowledge of the institution where I was going. Also some travel expenses problems due to the need to attend an interview that was asking what I have already written in a paper. But no more problems apart from that. From experience of new VISA students from my country it seems that now things are getting smoother.

It wasn't a problem with the visa itself, that was okay (but annoying due to all the bureaucracy). The real problem was, that the office within the university that is handing out the I-20's needed an enormous amount of time to get everything ready. It was close to not getting a visa because of that delay. I don't know, if it's a problem within the university (SUNY Stony Brook) or from the official system that is set up for getting the I-20, but that was a really bad situation.

J-1 visa is limited to 5 year stay, with no option for OPT, despite being assured of such when accepting J-1 in place of an F-1 visa

July 2005, I got visa security checking when applying for a US visa.

Jun., 2004 status check

Long processing time, about 7 weeks for my first visa in 2002. I almost missed the flight. Now I am on NSEER special registration, and it is a hassle every time I leave US, because I have to inform the INS first or risk denial of re-entrance.

long time before call and actual appointment (spring-summer 2005) only 1 year visa

May 2002, has been checked for a month before getting the visa.

Much Better now.

My case was simple and the VISA straightforward, but there are a few more complicated that probably need attention

My only applications were both before 2001, and neither were problematic. My five year visa just expired, and as it happens, I am about to get another one in Vancouver B.C. this Monday. If that goes south, I will definitely let you know.

My only concern is that my visa was granted only for two years although I was admitted in four years PhD program.

My visa application was rejected twice in 2001. Finally I made it on the 3rd one.

My visa application was suspended once for the security check in Jan. 2001. It took about 1.5 months to get the visa. However I had no trouble of getting the visa for my most recent oversea trip (summer 2005).

My wife had problems obtaining a visa to enter the US. Her application for visa was denied for 3 times in year 2001. I had to go back to China to help her apply the visa.

No, I had to renew Visa four times. The Visa process was really smooth.

No : I did not have any trouble getting visa the first time I applied, and I haven't left US since I came in Fall 2002.

No problems, but it is a long-winded procedure to get a visa!

No, because I have not gone out of the US since I came here. I did not want to take the risk not being able to get a visa to come back. I had to give up a very important training program held in Australia due to this issue of visa.

No, but I got it before September 11. But I do have a lot of problems every time that I re-enter the country, usually I lose connection flights for the delayed time spent with the immigration people (very unpolite people, by the way...).

No, but it is annoying that after 3 years of J-1 I have to renew it every 6 months in Europe. Since my PhD will last 5 years, I have to fly back twice a year in the final two years of my PhD just to renew my visum

No, but the process of obtaining one and waiting was miserably long. Due to my status as a special registrant, it was, and still is, a hassle to leave and gain entry into the country.

No, but the regulations have become a lot tougher recently.

No, I've never had visa problems. However, my mother wanted to visit me for couple of month to give her support in raising my daughter while me and my wife are pursuing our degrees. It seems nearly impossible for her to get a US visa. She has tried three times already without any success. Their (US embassy in Tbilisi, Georgia) attitude towards my mother is not only disappointing but also humiliating. Unfortunately, I've not been able to do anything about it.

No. But I am worried about obtaining a F1 visa very much. I want to go back to China and visit my family, but visa is the biggest concern that prevent me making decision.

No. But I am writing this to indicate a common problem that many of my colleagues confronted. Usually for an VISA interview US Embassy requests a valid proof of the expected date of departure. In many instances, US Embassy give the date on the expected date of departure. This put the applicant in deep trouble, especially for the first time travellers and those who travel in the peak season(August) arranging their trip.

No. But I did have problems while attending conference in Italy. I am for restriction free movement for Scientific meetings.

No. But visa concern severely restricted my travel plan to academic conference overseas.

No. Obtaining american visas is a long, expensive, invasive, bureaucratic and time-consuming process. I have not myself had problems within this process, though.

Not now. Earlier when I initially came here they gave visa only for one year, it made students to restrict themselves with local conference and workshops. But now they are issuing till the end of the date specified in I-20.

not obtaining the visa, but have had hard times in the past (before and after 9/11) entering the country in certain airports, even though I am from a country in good terms with the US ---Mexico---

Not quite since I have not been back since the visa is getting tough.

Not really but it was little bit scary. US government officers have a fame for their high noses in other countries not just in here.

obtaining the entry visa --- no. But visa considerations prevented me from going abroad for a conference or a summer school more than once.

October 1999, US embassy in Moscow, Russia -- no difficulties whatsoever, except standing in line for over 6 hours. However I was charged \$450 (over the usual application fee) and later found that as a citizen of Ukraine and F1 applicant I shouldn't have been charged anything at all. Never was able to return the money. April 2003, US embassy in Kiev, Ukraine -- few hours of interrogation (too rude and unpleasant to call it an "interview") by consulate officers. Gave me a visa the same day though.

Oh yes. I am from middle east (Iran) and as a result haven't been able to go home for 4 years now. You can imagine how difficult it is. I have to mention that they (US embassy) have rejected my parents visa applications 3 times just for BS reasons too. PLEASE DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS PROBLEM IF YOU CAN or all the international students go to Europe or Canada and the US will pay the price in the long run!

once had a position available, the regular visa sponsorship will be effective my status.

Only a 1-year visa was given to me, when another contemporary was given by a 5-year visa. I don't know how they decide how many years to give.

Persobally, I did not have that problem, since I afraid to travel because of visa issues.

Reissuing VISA is not big deal to me. However, being as US alien is hard for planning my future after graduation since many labs have restrictions to hire US citizens and permanent residences.

relatively smooth so far, thanks to advanced planning, but very stressful. Very confusing, inconsistent and unhelpful advice from London embassy. Need to leave the country without any guarantee of when you can return is very uneasing and practically inconvenient.

since I am working on nanotechnology, I was checked last year when I visited my family and reapply visa from China

so far I have never got problems with Visa application. But always feel nervous when I renew my visa.

Terrible

Thankfully I have had no problems, but I do foresee problems if I decide to take up a postdoc or something like that here.

thanx for remind me of that terrible pain in the neck!

The only thing which occurred was delay of three months in getting the visa, which I think is not too long as compared to some other people who had to wait for six months.

The US consulate in Mumbai (India) rejected the application twice in 2003 (admission for Fall '03). Reasons unknown!

There is still a big possibility to be checked for a long time when I try to apply for a new visa as a Chinese Physics graduate student.

These days, as we all know that obtaining US Visa has become extremely difficult and in fact, probabilistic. I would urge on behalf of my fellow workers in the same category, that US government should do something about it. I personally feel that if it continues the same way, US graduate school workforce will be jeopardized. Thanks. Sincerely.

This May when I returned to China, I was checked for one month which made me miss the Gordon Conference meeting.

Two years ago (01/2004), when I applied for a visa to re-enter the US, the process was delayed for 4 weeks due to security reasons.

Unfortunately, I did encounter twice the situation when two different visa officer said she/he must check me instead of approve the visa immediately. The first time I waited for two months to get my visa, and the second time three weeks. I wasn't told for the reason the first time. And for second time, I think it is even more incomprehensible for the officer told me he has to check me because the first check was out of date. I was wondering if the necessity of checking your file is all depends on if you are being checked for the first time applying a visa or not? If so, then it would be easy for me and for the officers to know the results later on. BTW, I was just going back to my homeland to have my wedding held, and applying visa for coming back to finish my PhD.

very hard to get a visa. check time often takes long.

Visa is giving only per year.If we are in a PhD programm,then it's a five year programm.If we can get Visa for five years at once it would be good.Because at each year when we visit our country, we have to renew visa and it's somewhat expensive.

Well, yes. Actually it took me like 4 months to get my visa issued after a very long security clearance! That was two years ago and I dont know what is the situation now.

When I applied for VISA from China last year, I had to undergo the security check process, which fortunately ended up in a month.

When I first applied for my visa in 1999 I did not have problems, but it took a long time to issue.

When I first applied Visa to US in 2002, I got checked and waited 1 month for the visa.

When I first entered U.S., my F1 visa was firstly denied and then got the safety check. Even now, I am afraid to go back China due to visa problems.

Yeah, my visa was temporarily postponed for six months in July 2003. I had to join school a semester later. They issued my visa in December. The reason as they said was to obtain special security clearance. They told me that they had to send it to Washington.

Yep, in 2003 when I applied for the student visa for the first time, I got a background check for 4 Months, and finally I was delayed for half a year to come to US.

yes I was rejected 3 times to get my visa to come to US for my graduate school, it was between summer 1998 till summer 1999. As you know there was restriction for Student from Iran from many years ago even before September 11-2001.Clearance,1 entry visa and ....

YES!!! Delayed by 2 months in Shanghai, China. Due to security clearance, June 2005. Please do something about this! It is a little better now that we have 4 years "check free" after once checked, and the visa is now valid for 1 year and is multi entry. How ever, if we switch research group, we need to be checked again! As I understand many students, especially in their first couple of years, may change groups.

Yes, applying US visa is a nightmare in China. Lots of physics students were rejected or "checked" for no reason. I am lucky that I was only "checked" once and got visa half a month later. But that really hurts my feelings.

yes, check me for more than 4 months in 2003 aug. and i returned to school at jan 2006.

yes, Discrimination to all people from Moslem country, I need to register in airport only because I'm from Indonesia. EVERY MAN IS BORN EQUAL !!!

yes, got 3 mo delay for security check in China in Jan 2004. have to go to Cadana to renew visa in the last two years to minized the risk.

Yes, Had to go through a special security review for being in Physics.

Yes, hard to obtain a student visa.

Yes, I am an iranian citizen and had to travel to another country to get visa.

yes, i could not come here just because of visa in 2003

Yes, I DID had a very bad experience on abtaining a F1 visa to return US in 2003. I went back to visit my family in April, 2003. And I was told my case has to be checked. I had to wait at home for more than 6 months and everything I was working on had to be paused. One subject was transferred to my coworker and finally she published the result.

Yes, I did have problem obtaining a visa to enter the U.S. because my research field is on the check list. I was rejected my first visa application in June 24 2001.

Yes, I did have problem with visa entering US. I attend 2004 March meeting at Montreal and cannnot come back because of VISA issue.

Yes, I did have problems in obtaining a visa to US about two years ago. I had to wait till the check of my background was finished. That delayed my entrance for about two months.

Yes, I ever had problems obtaining a visa to enter the U.S. On June 12rd, 2003, I applied for a F-1 visa at the United State Consulate in Shanghai, China. However, I didn't get it until July 29th, 2003, which was only about three weeks before the date on which I intended to enter the U.S. The reason that I didn't get the visa immediately was that the consultor believed that the area (condensed matter physics) I was going to study was somehow related to the national security. Thus they should check my status. I was lucky because finally I got the visa and came to the United States without further troubles. My several classmates in China, who applied for the visa at almost the same time as me, didn't get their visa until the next year (2004), even they got offers and financial supports from graduate schools in the United States.

Yes, I experienced a problem while obtaning F-2 visa for my wife. My graduate advisor contacted APS which helped a lot. I do appreciate this help.

yes,I had a single entry visa and when last year I went home, which was after 4 years being in the US,it took 5 months to get my Visa and I almost missed the Fall semester. The clearance process took very long. going home to visit my family is becoming a dream for us.

yes, I have gone through twice "background check" to obtain my visa and reentry visa in June 2000 and Jan. 2004, which had a very nagative impact to my research and so my research group as well.

Yes, I have such a visa application problem when I was trying to attend a international symposium held in Japan this past September. In order to attend that symposium, I had to go back my home country (China) to apply the visa,(currently I am studying in US), which is very time-consuming and also risky. Finally I had to give it up.

Yes, I have. I applied last March and I'd been waiting till 1 week before I had to appear at KSU. That was quit a stress! I've got just single entry visa and now I can't even visit my parents in Russia, because I'm not sure if I'm gonna get it again and how long will it take. Actually it's very sad, I would like somebody to help me with this situation, but I don't know where can I go...

Yes, I haven't get the visa for the first time. July 2000.

Yes, I once went back China at November 2002, and my visa got 'security check'for about 10 months, as the sequence, I went back USA to continue my Ph.D study at September, 2003.

Yes, I was checked when I applied US visa in 2002 summer. But the whole check period took three months, which brought a lot of problems to my life and study.

Yes, I went back to China for a short-term family visiting in Dec. 2002. When I applied for F-1 visa renewal on 01/03/2003 in Beijing, I was told that the background checking was the pre-requist for the visa re-issue. This procedure took 6 months until I got my visa on 06/04/2003.

yes, in 2004, when I would like to get a visa, they makes me hard to get a visa because I am studying physics. Also when I arrived in US they take me to their special place for interogation.

Yes, in Russia, in August 2002, it took me more than 3 monthes to get a visa, I was late for classes as a result. Now, in Germany, in November 2005, I can only get a \_single entry\_ visa. I don't know how long it would take, but if I want to go home visit my family I have to go through the application process again.

yes, it occured on Oct, 2003. I couldn't enter US for about half a year and finally got my F1 visa on Feb, 2004.

Yes, it took me half a year to apply a visa to US from July 1999 to Jan. 2000.

Yes, last winter( 2004) I was checked for more than one month when I applied re-entrance F-1 Visa from China.

Yes, my visa was checked in 2004, it took about 2 month for issuing the visa finally. visa checked on 1/4/2004, cleared 2/24/2004

yes, once waste my time in my research

yes, reject many times

Yes, rejected twice in 2003

Yes, the visa office claim my research is sensitive and need the background check in Washington, DC. The check process delayed my return to continue my study

yes, the visa processing takes really long time.

Yes. I was refused visa in the first time I applied for no reason.

Yes. I went to Mexico to get my visa. The experience was horrible. I would never do that again. It was Nov 2003. At that time, basically, every student applied Visa in China was checked, and the waiting period could be one year. I completely hate the Visa system now. Our visa only valids for one year, and need to renew it. It costs money, time, and energy. It also creates such an unpredictable situation that burns my nerves.

Yes. 2000 vidssa application denied

Yes. Every time I am trying to obtain a visa, there is a problem. June, 2001    June, 2003    Dec, 2003

Yes. I am from China. In 2003, when I applied for the F1 visa, I was checked for 20 days. In those days, I was very anxious about my visa.

Yes. I am from P.R.China. In 2004 summer, I went home, and got checked when trying to obtain visa. I had to change my flight ,which cost me money and time.

Yes. I applied for a US visa in Ankara in July 2000, but I did not receive it until 3 month later after I lost one semester of graduate school.

yes. I had security check last June in Shanghai China. I'd been studying here for 4 years then. They said I need to be rechecked since I finished my courses and may choose a different research direction. I was late for school due to this.

Yes. I have been in this country for 5.5 years. I am from Iran and everytime for entering to U.S. I should go through a long process. I am hoping to get a postdoctoral in European countries. This way at least my parents can come and visit me. I am tired to hear no when I apply for job or postdoc just because of my nationality. We, Iranian, particularly female are discriminated in our country because of our government and here because we are Iranian.

Yes. I have problems obtaining a visa to enter the U.S. I was trying to apply a visa in Nov, 2004. somehow they checked my visa and I have to wait until they clear the check.

Yes. I was applying for a visa to enter USA to continue my PhD study after a winter vacation in China. My visa application was checked for 40 days. This happened on Dec. 17th, 2003.

Yes. I was checked background twice when I applied student visa. And I had to cancel my trip because of that.

yes. I was sent to a Mantis screening test two weeks ago and it is currently ongoing. In the past 2 years the danger of visa delays prevented me from even attempting to travel outside U.S.

Yes. In 2000 when I applied visa in China for coming to Princeton University for my graduate study. I applied three times and finally got it.

Yes. In 2001.

Yes. In August 2002, when I went back to China during summer break, it took me 10 weeks to get the F1 visa to come back and continue my study.

Yes. It happened in last time when I went back home. I was background checked and had to postpone my returning date for almost one month which is this February.

Yes. It took 14 month instead of 2.

yes. I've been checked twice on Jun 2004 and Jun 2005, but got one-entry visa after that.

yes. Last December I got a visa check, and it took me to travel three times until I got a visa. It cost me a lot time, energy and money.

Yes. many many problem and wait forever for the visa, which sucks.

Yes. My visa application in Jan 2003 was delayed until that Aug. I had to stay in China and take a semester off from school. The delay was for no reason except I was a physics major.

Yes. Since my study is in nuclear physics area, I used to be delayed by 2 months for security check by US consulate. The result is I have to start my study 1 semester later than I thought.

Yes. Student Visa (F-1) is always hard to get for Chinese students.

YES. Summer 2003, took me 4 months to get a J1 visa in Moscow, Russia. August 2005, almost got stuck in Vancouver, Canada getting a new J1 visa. The consul informed me that the "visas mantis" is needed. He transferred the old one though, because it's been less than two years since the last clearance. I do not know about the reason for this obvious need of clearance, my specialization doesn't fall into any suspicious category as far as I know.

YES. The very first time I was to enter the US in 1998, My home country (India) tested nuclear bombs 15 days before I applied for visa. The US government instituted a somewhat adhoc blacklist of topics for which they delayed or denied visas. My topic Statistical and nonlinear physics was neither on the "cleared" or "blacklisted" list so the decision was left to probably INS. The whole process took 2 months. I eventually did receive the visa but had to make my prospective graduate school write letters to the consulate on my behalf. All this I don't mind. Its understandable but the person in front of me in the queue got his visa in 5 minutes for Post-Doc in Nuclear Physics!!!!

yes. they rejected me the first time i apply visa. But only after less than two weeks, when i was there the second time, they finally approved my visa. As you can judge, how much can i change in this two weeks. So i think most of time, their rejection is unreasonable. I am really tired of applying visa all the time.

Yes. very difficult

Yes. When I was back to China this summer, I got 'checked' for reason of sensitive major. It cost me two months (Aug 17 - Oct 23). The consulate permitted me no way of inquiring the progress. They called me once at Sep16, asking for some additional materials.