



Case Study

University of Southern California scales international student support with Interstride

Background

With 13,000+ international students making up 27% of its student body, the University of Southern California (USC) has one of the largest international student populations in the U.S. However, the size and decentralized nature of the university posed unique challenges in providing consistent, scalable support to international students across its independent campuses.

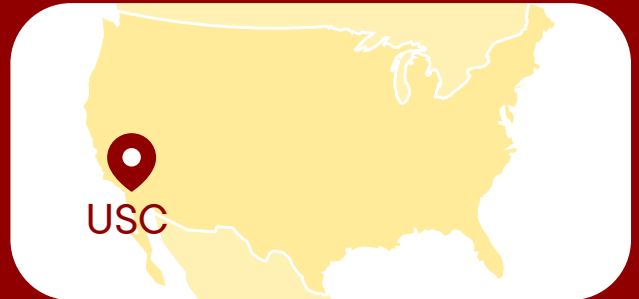
The Challenge

USC's international students face significant obstacles while navigating their career journeys:

- **Visa challenges:** Difficulty finding employers willing to sponsor H-1B visas.
- **Inconsistent resources:** A lack of centralized information on CPT, OPT, and cap-exempt opportunities.
- **Complex navigation:** Identifying trusted career tools and resources to support job searches and professional development.

The USC Career Center recognized the need for a better solution—one that would make it “easier for international students to find the information that they need and to be able to do it on their own,” said Addie Cheng, Associate Director of International Student Career Engagement. For a university of USC's size, providing individualized support to every international student was simply not scalable.

USC at a glance



- Los Angeles, CA
- 27% international students from 100+ countries

Without a streamlined, centralized approach, the university struggled to meet the diverse needs of its large international student population effectively.



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We have a lot of international students, and we want to make sure they feel supported with specific resources catered to their needs.

Addie Cheng

Associate Director of International Student Career Engagement

The Solution

To address these challenges, USC implemented Interstride in 2019, creating a centralized, all-in-one resource for international students. The platform provided:

- **Comprehensive career tools:** Live databases of visa-friendly employers, H-1B sponsorship insights, and career development resources.
- **On-demand access:** Scalable 24/7 support through webinars, immigration updates, and self-guided tools.
- **Enhanced advisor efficiency:** By answering routine student queries, Interstride allowed advisors to dedicate more time to personalized mentorship, programming, and employer outreach.

Cheng highlighted the platform's value: "Interstride answers a lot of the common questions students have when they come in for advising—how to find H-1B sponsoring employers, navigate job searches, and understand CPT and OPT. All of that information is there."

The Impact

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Interstride ensures “that students feel supported with 24/7 scalable resources beyond advising appointments or office hours with me or other campus colleagues.

– Addie Cheng

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To address these challenges, USC implemented Interstride in 2019, creating a centralized, all-in-one resource for international students. The platform provided:

- **Scalable support:** USC provided 24/7 access to trustworthy resources, ensuring every international student could get the help they needed without relying solely on advisors.
- **Efficient advising:** Staff freed up time to focus on strategic initiatives like mentorship programs, employer outreach, and events.
- **Positive student experiences:** Students described the platform as “simple and easy to navigate,” with many using it as their primary resource for job searches and visa information.

Empowered international community:

- Interstride became a cornerstone of USC's career ecosystem, offering students a reliable guide for navigating their career journeys.

Interstride Career Portal

Boost international student engagement and career success with Interstride. Schedule an intro call to learn more.

interstride.com/career-centers