



## ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

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### **STATEMENT BY AAU PRESIDENT NILS HASSELMO ON EXTENSION OF VISAS MANTIS CLEARANCE BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

*The State Department announced today an extension of the Visas Mantis clearance for students and scholars/scientists. For students, the duration of the clearance will be four years – essentially the duration of studies. For scholars/scientists, the duration will be two years. Both were previously one year. The State Department announcement can be found at <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2005/42212.htm>.*

*Following is a statement by AAU President Nils Hasselmo on the government action:*

“The extension of the Visas Mantis clearance to four years, which is effectively the length of the average student’s studies, is excellent news for international students, research universities, and the nation’s research enterprise. It’s a common-sense reform that removes an unnecessary burden that caused enormous inconvenience for thousands of international students and discouraged many more from coming here to study.

“The extension of the clearance to two years for researchers is also a very important development. It makes it easier for international scientists working in the U.S. to attend international conferences and collaborate with scientists in other countries.

“The presence of international students and scientists in the United States is essential if we are going to maintain our global leadership in science and innovation. We need to make clear to those considering studying and working at America’s research universities that they are welcome here; this action by the Administration sends the right kind of message.”

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*The Association of American Universities is an association of 62 public and private research universities organized to develop and implement effective national and institutional policies supporting research and scholarship, graduate and professional education, undergraduate education, and public service in research universities.*