

[CT Business News Journal](#)[CT Data Engine](#)[Real Estate Data](#)[Employment](#)[New Companies](#)[Education](#)[Crime](#)

Connecticut Business News Journal™

**conntact.com**  
Connecticut's Business Address™

**TMB** T. M. BYXBEE COMPAN  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT  
2319 Whitney Ave. Hamden, CT 06518 203.281.4933 w

[E-mail this link to a friend](#)

## Coming to America

International students are flocking to area colleges and universities like never before



Business  
New  
Haven  
06/23/2008

by Steve  
Higgins

For Karthik Sambasivam, there was never any question about where to attend graduate school when he was growing up in Vellore, India.

"The United States is the best place to develop your personal skills and your management skills," he says. "There are a lot of multinational companies in India, and it's very important to work here in the United States and gain that experience."

Sambasivam, 23, is a graduate student in electrical and computer engineering at the University of New Haven. He moved to New Haven in last September after earning his undergraduate degree in electrical and electronic engineering in India.

"This is my first visit to the United States, and it's been quite a journey," says Sambasivam, who works part time in the university's advancement office. "It's a very different way of life."

[CT Business News Journal](#)[CT Data Engine](#)[Real Estate Data](#)[Employment](#)[New Companies](#)[Education](#)[Crime](#)

Connecticut Business News Journal™

**conntact.com**  
Connecticut's Business Address™

**TMB** T. M. BYXBEE COMPANY  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT  
2319 Whitney Ave. Hamden, CT 06518 203.281.4933 w

[E-mail this link to a friend](#)

## Coming to America

International students are flocking to area colleges and universities like never before



Business  
New  
Haven  
06/23/2008

by Steve  
Higgins

For Karthik Sambasivam, there was never any question about where to attend graduate school when he was growing up in Vellore, India.

"The United States is the best place to develop your personal skills and your management skills," he says. "There are a lot of multinational companies in India, and it's very important to work here in the United States and gain that experience."

Sambasivam, 23, is a graduate student in electrical and computer engineering at the University of New Haven. He moved to New Haven in last September after earning his undergraduate degree in electrical and electronic engineering in India.

"This is my first visit to the United States, and it's been quite a journey," says Sambasivam, who works part time in the university's advancement office. "It's a very different way of life."

[CT Business News Journal](#)[CT Data Engine](#)[Real Estate Data](#)[Employment](#)[New Companies](#)[Education](#)[Crime](#)

Connecticut Business News Journal™

**conntact.com**  
Connecticut's Business Address™

**TMB** T. M. BYXBEE COMPAN  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT  
2319 Whitney Ave. Hamden, CT 06518 203.281.4933 w

[E-mail this link to a friend](#)

## Coming to America

International students are flocking to area colleges and universities like never before



Business  
New  
Haven  
06/23/2008

by Steve  
Higgins

For Karthik Sambasivam, there was never any question about where to attend graduate school when he was growing up in Vellore, India.

"The United States is the best place to develop your personal skills and your management skills," he says. "There are a lot of multinational companies in India, and it's very important to work here in the United States and gain that experience."

Sambasivam, 23, is a graduate student in electrical and computer engineering at the University of New Haven. He moved to New Haven in last September after earning his undergraduate degree in electrical and electronic engineering in India.

"This is my first visit to the United States, and it's been quite a journey," says Sambasivam, who works part time in the university's advancement office. "It's a very different way of life."

The first thing that struck Sambasivam after arriving in New Haven was the absence of human beings on the streets. "In India, any time of day you will find at least ten people on the streets and you can walk up to them and talk to them," he says. "Here you can't find anybody, and strangers are not approachable, anyway."

Sambasivam quickly adds that he has found Americans to be very friendly once you get to know them.

Adjusting to a new lifestyle is just one of many challenges facing international students who attend one of the many universities dotting the Greater New Haven landscape, says Joseph Spellman, director of international admissions at UNH.

Currently about nine percent of UNH's total enrollment, or 390 students, are international students, he says. They come from more than 45 countries, predominantly Asian.

"There is always a desire to come to the United States for education in many parts of the world," he says. "We're getting the largest number from Asia at this point, because the economies are doing well in that region right now."

While India sends the largest single number of students to UNH, China is gaining rapidly, Spellman says.

"Previously it wasn't very easy for Chinese students to get visas, then three years ago the U.S. government started increasing the number of visas issued to that country," Spellman explains. As a country's economy improves, more visas are issued because the U.S. government can be more confident that the students will be able to return to their home countries and find work available, he says.

Since Spellman visited China three years ago, UNH has seen its Chinese student population increase from near zero to 35 students. He is also seeing a strong surge in visas issued to students from Vietnam, which has seen its economy improve markedly in recent years.

Spellman says UNH and other universities actively recruit international students because their presence benefits the entire student body.

"It helps our students get a better picture of the world by meeting students from other cultures," he says. "They get a whole different perspective. It's important for their future to be able to fit into the ideas and changes going on globally."

Patrick Frazier, director of international education at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, agrees.



The first thing that struck Sambasivam after arriving in New Haven was the absence of human beings on the streets. "In India, any time of day you will find at least ten people on the streets and you can walk up to them and talk to them," he says. "Here you can't find anybody, and strangers are not approachable, anyway."

Sambasivam quickly adds that he has found Americans to be very friendly once you get to know them.

Adjusting to a new lifestyle is just one of many challenges facing international students who attend one of the many universities dotting the Greater New Haven landscape, says Joseph Spellman, director of international admissions at UNH.

Currently about nine percent of UNH's total enrollment, or 390 students, are international students, he says. They come from more than 45 countries, predominantly Asian.

"There is always a desire to come to the United States for education in many parts of the world," he says. "We're getting the largest number from Asia at this point, because the economies are doing well in that region right now."

While India sends the largest single number of students to UNH, China is gaining rapidly, Spellman says.

"Previously it wasn't very easy for Chinese students to get visas, then three years ago the U.S. government started increasing the number of visas issued to that country," Spellman explains. As a country's economy improves, more visas are issued because the U.S. government can be more confident that the students will be able to return to their home countries and find work available, he says.

Since Spellman visited China three years ago, UNH has seen its Chinese student population increase from near zero to 35 students. He is also seeing a strong surge in visas issued to students from Vietnam, which has seen its economy improve markedly in recent years.

Spellman says UNH and other universities actively recruit international students because their presence benefits the entire student body.

"It helps our students get a better picture of the world by meeting students from other cultures," he says. "They get a whole different perspective. It's important for their future to be able to fit into the ideas and changes going on globally."

Patrick Frazier, director of international education at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, agrees.



The first thing that struck Sambasivam after arriving in New Haven was the absence of human beings on the streets. "In India, any time of day you will find at least ten people on the streets and you can walk up to them and talk to them," he says. "Here you can't find anybody, and strangers are not approachable, anyway."

Sambasivam quickly adds that he has found Americans to be very friendly once you get to know them.

Adjusting to a new lifestyle is just one of many challenges facing international students who attend one of the many universities dotting the Greater New Haven landscape, says Joseph Spellman, director of international admissions at UNH.

Currently about nine percent of UNH's total enrollment, or 390 students, are international students, he says. They come from more than 45 countries, predominantly Asian.

"There is always a desire to come to the United States for education in many parts of the world," he says. "We're getting the largest number from Asia at this point, because the economies are doing well in that region right now."

While India sends the largest single number of students to UNH, China is gaining rapidly, Spellman says.

"Previously it wasn't very easy for Chinese students to get visas, then three years ago the U.S. government started increasing the number of visas issued to that country," Spellman explains. As a country's economy improves, more visas are issued because the U.S. government can be more confident that the students will be able to return to their home countries and find work available, he says.

Since Spellman visited China three years ago, UNH has seen its Chinese student population increase from near zero to 35 students. He is also seeing a strong surge in visas issued to students from Vietnam, which has seen its economy improve markedly in recent years.

Spellman says UNH and other universities actively recruit international students because their presence benefits the entire student body.

"It helps our students get a better picture of the world by meeting students from other cultures," he says. "They get a whole different perspective. It's important for their future to be able to fit into the ideas and changes going on globally."

Patrick Frazier, director of international education at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, agrees.



"It's important for our students to get a more international perspective since they will be going out and working in a global setting," Frazier says. "As a university, we are promoting a more inclusive perspective on world affairs, and this is one way to help us to do that."

Frazier says Quinnipiac currently has more than 200 international students, mostly in health sciences, business and communications majors. The school's strategic plan calls for establishing new scholarships for students from undeveloped countries, and new grants for teachers from other countries.

Frazier says students from other countries know they will gain a valuable education in the U.S.

"They realize they need to work in a global society, and the United States is a major player," he explains. "They have to understand what makes America tick. They can go back to their country and act as an ambassador to bring U.S. business to their country, and also to bring U.S. practices to their country."

The adjustment to living here can be daunting, Frazier acknowledges. "About a quarter of our international students have attended high school in the United States, but for the others there's an academic adjustment, a social adjustment, and an adjustment to being so far away from home. We work with them to make that transition easier," he says.

Sambasivam at UNH had trouble finding a place to live when he first moved to New Haven, and the president of UNH's international student services office stepped in to help out. "It just takes time," says Sambasivam, who has a sister living in New Jersey.

UNH's international student-services office helps newly arrived students with everything from obtaining a driver's license and opening a bank account to filling out tax forms and finding leisure activities. The office holds an international festival every year and sponsors international coffee hours every month to help students get to know one another.

Sambasivam confirms that his plan is to learn the ways of U.S. business and then return to India, bringing what he has learned to benefit his home country.

"There are very good people here, and the academics are very different," he says. In India, grades depend solely on the outcome of exams, he says, while in America many other factors come into play, from quizzes to homework projects. Sambasivam feels the U.S. method gives him more well-rounded training, and he prefers it to the Indian way.

He came to UNH for various reasons, primarily because the school offered courses that fit his specific interests in computer architecture and imbedded systems, and also because he wanted

"It's important for our students to get a more international perspective since they will be going out and working in a global setting," Frazier says. "As a university, we are promoting a more inclusive perspective on world affairs, and this is one way to help us to do that."

Frazier says Quinnipiac currently has more than 200 international students, mostly in health sciences, business and communications majors. The school's strategic plan calls for establishing new scholarships for students from undeveloped countries, and new grants for teachers from other countries.

Frazier says students from other countries know they will gain a valuable education in the U.S.

"They realize they need to work in a global society, and the United States is a major player," he explains. "They have to understand what makes America tick. They can go back to their country and act as an ambassador to bring U.S. business to their country, and also to bring U.S. practices to their country."

The adjustment to living here can be daunting, Frazier acknowledges. "About a quarter of our international students have attended high school in the United States, but for the others there's an academic adjustment, a social adjustment, and an adjustment to being so far away from home. We work with them to make that transition easier," he says.

Sambasivam at UNH had trouble finding a place to live when he first moved to New Haven, and the president of UNH's international student services office stepped in to help out. "It just takes time," says Sambasivam, who has a sister living in New Jersey.

UNH's international student-services office helps newly arrived students with everything from obtaining a driver's license and opening a bank account to filling out tax forms and finding leisure activities. The office holds an international festival every year and sponsors international coffee hours every month to help students get to know one another.

Sambasivam confirms that his plan is to learn the ways of U.S. business and then return to India, bringing what he has learned to benefit his home country.

"There are very good people here, and the academics are very different," he says. In India, grades depend solely on the outcome of exams, he says, while in America many other factors come into play, from quizzes to homework projects. Sambasivam feels the U.S. method gives him more well-rounded training, and he prefers it to the Indian way.

He came to UNH for various reasons, primarily because the school offered courses that fit his specific interests in computer architecture and imbedded systems, and also because he wanted

"It's important for our students to get a more international perspective since they will be going out and working in a global setting," Frazier says. "As a university, we are promoting a more inclusive perspective on world affairs, and this is one way to help us to do that."

Frazier says Quinnipiac currently has more than 200 international students, mostly in health sciences, business and communications majors. The school's strategic plan calls for establishing new scholarships for students from undeveloped countries, and new grants for teachers from other countries.

Frazier says students from other countries know they will gain a valuable education in the U.S.

"They realize they need to work in a global society, and the United States is a major player," he explains. "They have to understand what makes America tick. They can go back to their country and act as an ambassador to bring U.S. business to their country, and also to bring U.S. practices to their country."

The adjustment to living here can be daunting, Frazier acknowledges. "About a quarter of our international students have attended high school in the United States, but for the others there's an academic adjustment, a social adjustment, and an adjustment to being so far away from home. We work with them to make that transition easier," he says.

Sambasivam at UNH had trouble finding a place to live when he first moved to New Haven, and the president of UNH's international student services office stepped in to help out. "It just takes time," says Sambasivam, who has a sister living in New Jersey.

UNH's international student-services office helps newly arrived students with everything from obtaining a driver's license and opening a bank account to filling out tax forms and finding leisure activities. The office holds an international festival every year and sponsors international coffee hours every month to help students get to know one another.

Sambasivam confirms that his plan is to learn the ways of U.S. business and then return to India, bringing what he has learned to benefit his home country.

"There are very good people here, and the academics are very different," he says. In India, grades depend solely on the outcome of exams, he says, while in America many other factors come into play, from quizzes to homework projects. Sambasivam feels the U.S. method gives him more well-rounded training, and he prefers it to the Indian way.

He came to UNH for various reasons, primarily because the school offered courses that fit his specific interests in computer architecture and imbedded systems, and also because he wanted

to live near New York City, "to get a touch of the city life."

Sambasivam said he heard about UNH from a consultant in India who specializes in helping students find U.S. schools. "There are a lot of consultants who will tell you about U.S. universities," he says. "They are the starting point, along with the Internet."

Spellman says he regularly travels overseas to attend university fairs and consultant fairs, and he also speaks at high schools abroad.

At Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, about 150 international students were enrolled for the spring 2008 semester, according to Aliya Amin, coordinator of international students.

"They look so forward to coming here, and they make so many sacrifices to get that degree," she says. "They know they can work anywhere with a U.S. degree."

Amin said American students learn a lot from the international students. "The international students love to give presentations about their country," she notes.

Not surprisingly, Yale University has the highest number of international students in the area, due to its worldwide reputation. About 16 percent of Yale's total enrollment, or about 1,800 students, are from more than 110 countries around the world.

That's a record number, says Ann Kuhlman, director of Yale's Office of International Students and Scholars.

"International diversity benefits everyone in the classroom: The diverse talent and perspective and informal interactions can be life-changing," Kuhlman says.

She points out that international students add the relationships they have in their home countries to the overall network of the students and teachers they make connections with at Yale, widening the network of Yale students in general on a global scale.

Yale has a number of programs designed to help international students adjust to life in the United States, including workshops on subjects from getting a cell phone to buying a car. Yale publishes a handbook that shows international students where to go to shop, to eat or to use public transportation.

Yale sponsors a program designed to strengthen students' conversational English skills by matching them with a member of the New Haven community for occasional chat sessions. The school also has a "friendship program" that matches students

to live near New York City, "to get a touch of the city life."

Sambasivam said he heard about UNH from a consultant in India who specializes in helping students find U.S. schools. "There are a lot of consultants who will tell you about U.S. universities," he says. "They are the starting point, along with the Internet."

Spellman says he regularly travels overseas to attend university fairs and consultant fairs, and he also speaks at high schools abroad.

At Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, about 150 international students were enrolled for the spring 2008 semester, according to Aliya Amin, coordinator of international students.

"They look so forward to coming here, and they make so many sacrifices to get that degree," she says. "They know they can work anywhere with a U.S. degree."

Amin said American students learn a lot from the international students. "The international students love to give presentations about their country," she notes.

Not surprisingly, Yale University has the highest number of international students in the area, due to its worldwide reputation. About 16 percent of Yale's total enrollment, or about 1,800 students, are from more than 110 countries around the world.

That's a record number, says Ann Kuhlman, director of Yale's Office of International Students and Scholars.

"International diversity benefits everyone in the classroom: The diverse talent and perspective and informal interactions can be life-changing," Kuhlman says.

She points out that international students add the relationships they have in their home countries to the overall network of the students and teachers they make connections with at Yale, widening the network of Yale students in general on a global scale.

Yale has a number of programs designed to help international students adjust to life in the United States, including workshops on subjects from getting a cell phone to buying a car. Yale publishes a handbook that shows international students where to go to shop, to eat or to use public transportation.

Yale sponsors a program designed to strengthen students' conversational English skills by matching them with a member of the New Haven community for occasional chat sessions. The school also has a "friendship program" that matches students

to live near New York City, "to get a touch of the city life."

Sambasivam said he heard about UNH from a consultant in India who specializes in helping students find U.S. schools. "There are a lot of consultants who will tell you about U.S. universities," he says. "They are the starting point, along with the Internet."

Spellman says he regularly travels overseas to attend university fairs and consultant fairs, and he also speaks at high schools abroad.

At Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, about 150 international students were enrolled for the spring 2008 semester, according to Aliya Amin, coordinator of international students.

"They look so forward to coming here, and they make so many sacrifices to get that degree," she says. "They know they can work anywhere with a U.S. degree."

Amin said American students learn a lot from the international students. "The international students love to give presentations about their country," she notes.

Not surprisingly, Yale University has the highest number of international students in the area, due to its worldwide reputation. About 16 percent of Yale's total enrollment, or about 1,800 students, are from more than 110 countries around the world.

That's a record number, says Ann Kuhlman, director of Yale's Office of International Students and Scholars.

"International diversity benefits everyone in the classroom: The diverse talent and perspective and informal interactions can be life-changing," Kuhlman says.

She points out that international students add the relationships they have in their home countries to the overall network of the students and teachers they make connections with at Yale, widening the network of Yale students in general on a global scale.

Yale has a number of programs designed to help international students adjust to life in the United States, including workshops on subjects from getting a cell phone to buying a car. Yale publishes a handbook that shows international students where to go to shop, to eat or to use public transportation.

Yale sponsors a program designed to strengthen students' conversational English skills by matching them with a member of the New Haven community for occasional chat sessions. The school also has a "friendship program" that matches students

with local families who invite the students out for dinner, concerts and other activities. About 100 international students are now enrolled in that program, Kuhlman says.

International students also have a positive economic affect on the region, according to a 2007 study by the Association of International Educators.

For the 2006-07 academic year, an estimated 7,403 international students and their families in Connecticut contributed a total of \$217.6 million to the state's economy, the study says.

The study, which estimated a \$14.5 billion impact on the U.S. economy, included tuition and living expenses but did not use a so-called "multiplier effect." As a result, the association characterizes the figures as "conservative."

with local families who invite the students out for dinner, concerts and other activities. About 100 international students are now enrolled in that program, Kuhlman says.

International students also have a positive economic affect on the region, according to a 2007 study by the Association of International Educators.

For the 2006-07 academic year, an estimated 7,403 international students and their families in Connecticut contributed a total of \$217.6 million to the state's economy, the study says.

The study, which estimated a \$14.5 billion impact on the U.S. economy, included tuition and living expenses but did not use a so-called "multiplier effect." As a result, the association characterizes the figures as "conservative."

with local families who invite the students out for dinner, concerts and other activities. About 100 international students are now enrolled in that program, Kuhlman says.

International students also have a positive economic affect on the region, according to a 2007 study by the Association of International Educators.

For the 2006-07 academic year, an estimated 7,403 international students and their families in Connecticut contributed a total of \$217.6 million to the state's economy, the study says.

The study, which estimated a \$14.5 billion impact on the U.S. economy, included tuition and living expenses but did not use a so-called "multiplier effect." As a result, the association characterizes the figures as "conservative."