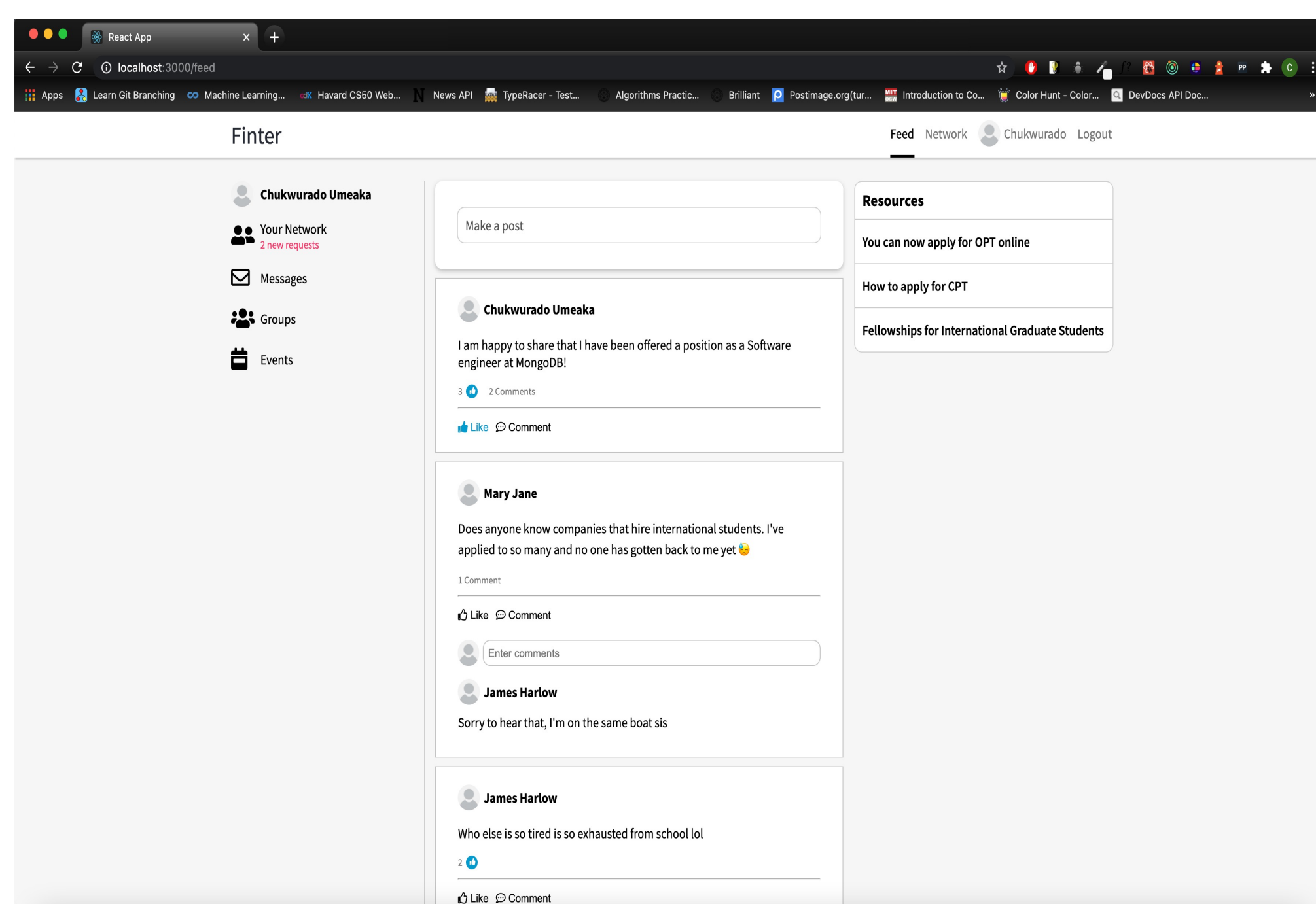


Introduction

Coming to the US as an international student can be an exciting and thrilling adventure. However, studying in a foreign country does introduce some challenges such as feelings of loneliness, difficulty with adjusting to new culture, lack of financial aid resources, job hunting etc. From my experience, connecting and discussing with other F1 students about my struggles has really helped me through some of the issues I have faced. This experience is not unique to me as studies have shown that this is true for many international students. They feel other international students understand the specific challenges they face, and it helps them understand they are not facing those challenges alone.

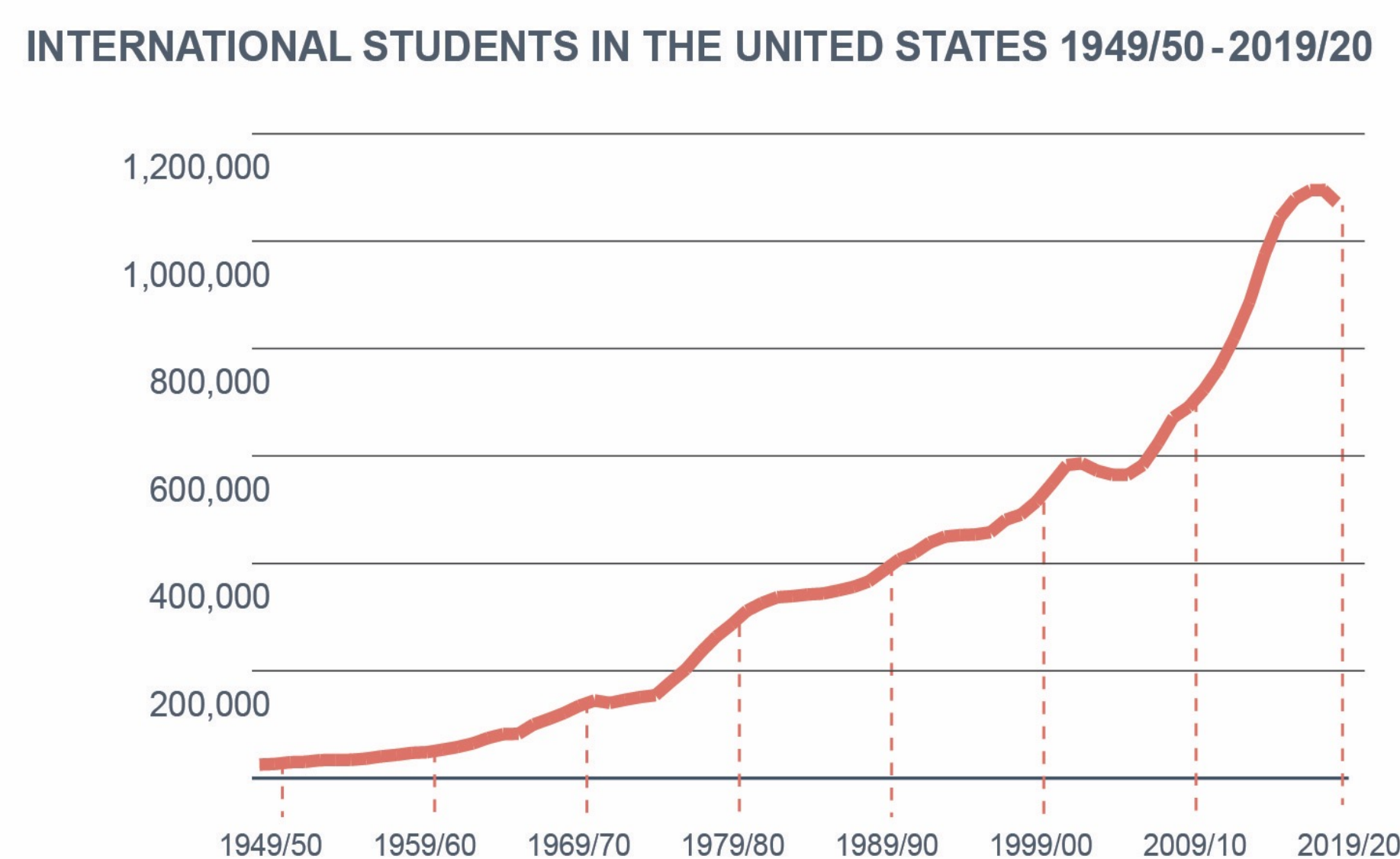
Objective

The purpose of this project is to create a platform that provides a space for international students to develop a network among other international students. Students will be able to share information on their experience, discover/connect with other international students, and view helpful news and resources.

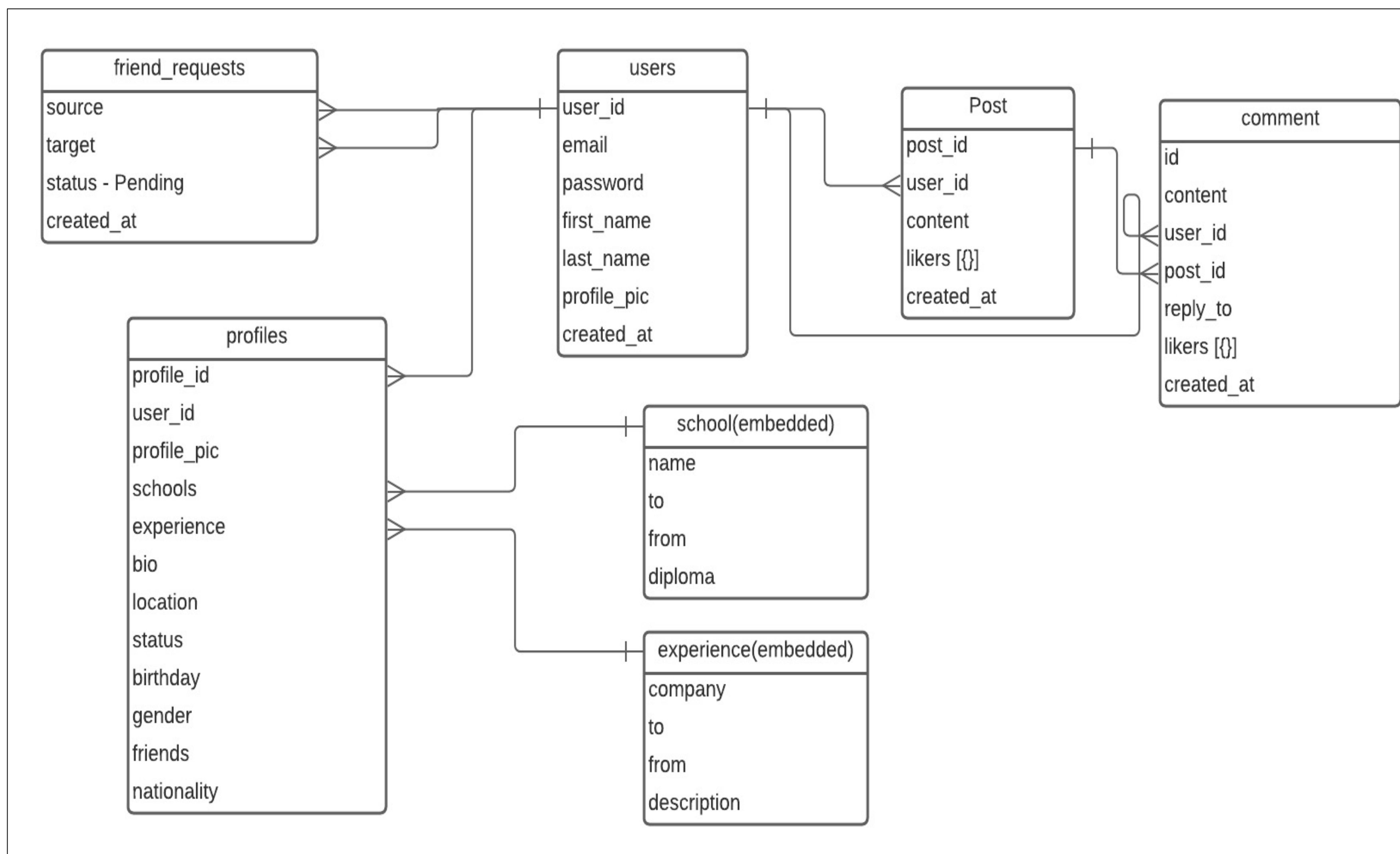


Significance

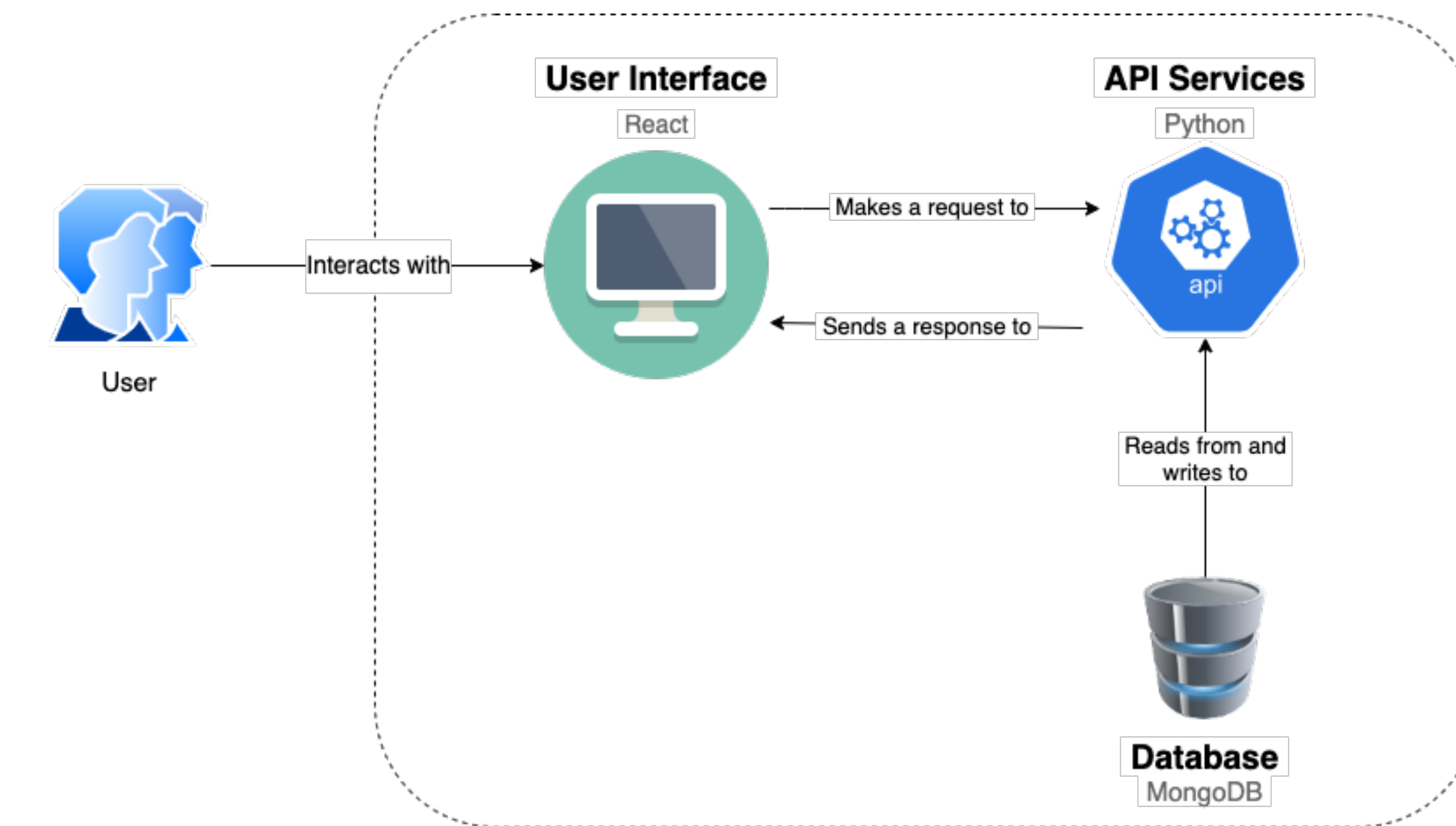
There are over 1 million international students in the US, and there are very limited platforms on which international students can interact on.



Database Model



Architecture/ Technology

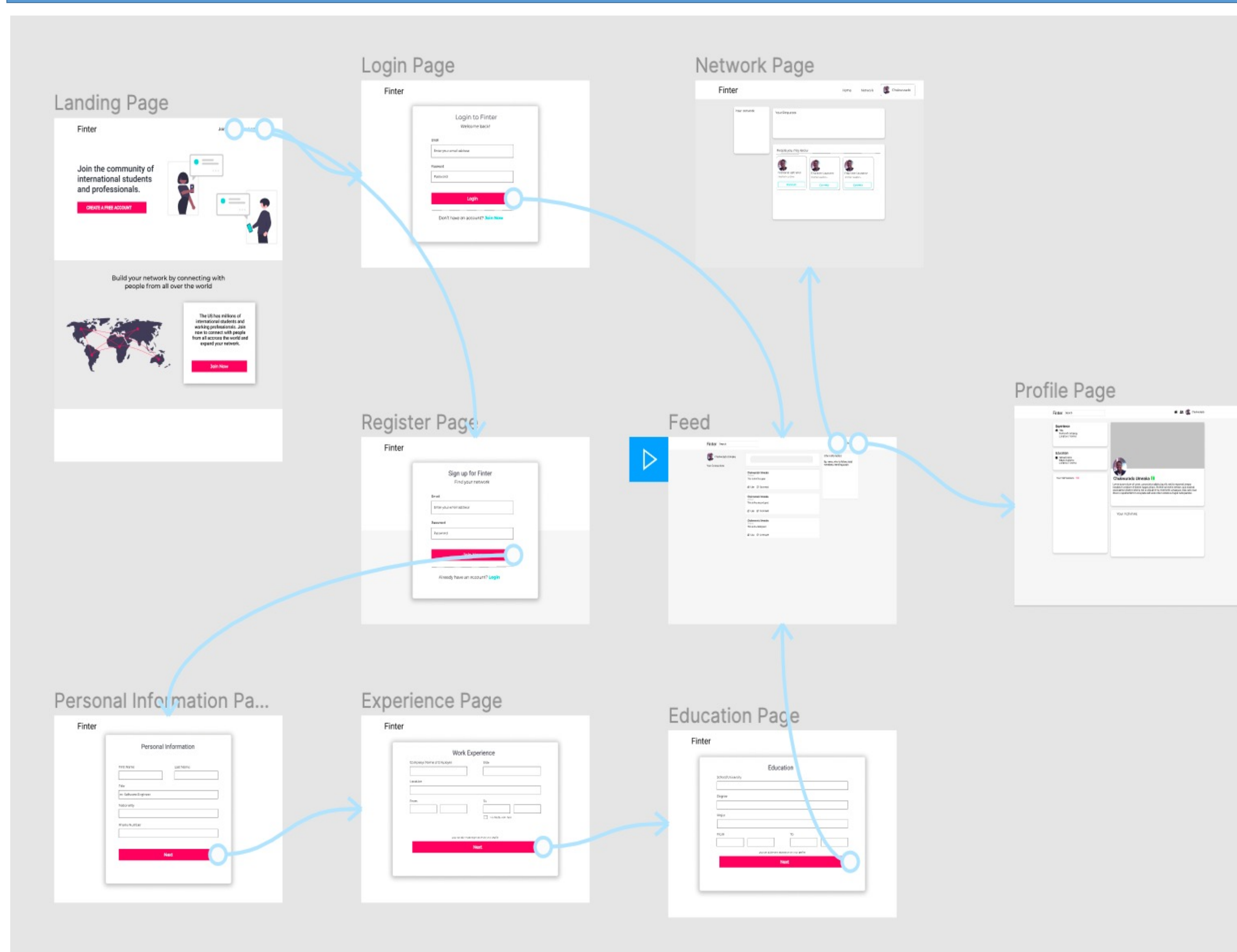


User Interface: The User Interface (UI) is what a user interacts with when using an application. In the project, I used **Reactjs**, a frontend framework technology, to create the UI.

API Services: The API services exist in the back end of the application, the side the user neither sees nor interacts with. This is where the app logic lives. I implemented the API using **Python**, a programming language.

Database: The Database is where data is stored and retrieved from. I used **MongoDB** as my database.

Application Prototype



Future Work

Deploy the application on Google Cloud Platform, or any other cloud services

Add more features that tailor to the needs of international students. Some of the features will include:

- Job Platform where students will be able to view and apply for jobs that would sponsor work visas or accept OPT.
- Scholarship display
- Housing search platform.

Reference

Krings M., (2016) "Study shows social media can help adjust to college life". <https://news.ku.edu/2016/02/05/study-shows-social-media-can-help-international-students-adjust-college-life-not-support>