

FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions on Executive Order

When did enforcement of the Executive Order start?

The Executive Order became effective on January 27, 2017.

I am a citizen of one of the 7 countries stated in the Executive Order. Am I allowed to travel?

For the near future, ISSS recommends not engaging in international travel due to the changing nature of the new administration's policies on visas and U.S. entry. Should you have concerns about immediate or essential international travel or visa renewal, contact ISSS to consult an advisor.

Visit iss.umd.edu under immigration updates for the latest information.

Also refer to the **NAFSA: Association of International Educators** [Executive Order Resources](#) page and [Travel Advisory](#).

See **Customs and Border Protection's** [Executive Order webpage & FAQ](#), which addresses traveler questions specific to the rule. Individuals who may be affected by this Executive Order may visit the [CBP INFO Center](#) website for additional information. On the webpage, travelers may also request additional guidance by clicking on the 'Email us your Question' button.

What do the two exemptions in the Executive Order mean? How are they applied to individual cases?

DHS and State can review individual cases and grant waivers on a case-by-case basis if that individual's admission to the United States is deemed to be in the national interest and if they do not pose a national security threat. Senior DHS personnel can review individual cases and grant exemptions on a case-by-case basis if that individual's admission to the United States falls within the parameters of the Executive Order. CBP is processing exemptions consistent with the Secretary's guidance.

Does this affect travelers at all ports of entry?

Yes, this Executive Order applies to nearly all travelers, except U.S. citizens, traveling on passports from Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Iran, Somalia, Libya, and Yemen who are applying for entry to the United States at any port of entry—air, land or sea.

Does "from one of the seven countries" mean citizen, national or born in?

Travelers are being treated according to the travel document they present.

Does this Executive Order apply to green card holders from one of the seven countries listed?

Under the recent guidance from the White House, CBP will continue to ensure that lawful permanent residents are processed through our borders efficiently and are not included in the Executive Order.

Will Canadian immigrants affected by the Executive Order be eligible for entry to the United States?

Landed immigrants of Canada (not including refugees) who hold passports of a restricted country can apply for admission to the United States, if the individual presents that passport with a valid immigrant or nonimmigrant visa and proof of their landed immigrant status, and only if the travel both originates in Canada and is through a land border or Preclearance location.

Under the Executive Order, all valid visas were provisionally revoked for nationals of those seven countries. Does the order issued by the US District Court in Washington state reverse it? Is my visa valid?

That provisional revocation is now lifted, and those visas are now valid for travel to the United States, if the holder is otherwise eligible. However, individuals whose visas are expired, or were physically cancelled, must apply for a new visa at a U.S. embassy or consulate.

Is OPT/STEM/CPT/J1 academic training still available?

At this time, there is no information regarding what actual changes we will see in the future for any particular visa category. Current regulations remain in place until any changes the new administration chooses to make. Be aware that changes in laws or regulations take time and will have advance warning.

Changes in policy or guidance and executive orders may happen more quickly and may take effect immediately. ISSS will continue to monitor any decisions impacting our student and scholar populations, and will provide updated information as it is available through this website and via email.

What does the order issued by a U.S. District Court in Washington state on February 3, 2017 mean?

The order bars the U.S. government from enforcing certain provisions of Executive Order 13769, 'Protecting the Nation from Terrorist Attacks by Foreign Nationals,' including those related to visas and travel for nationals of Syria, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. Accordingly, U.S. embassies and consulates will resume scheduling visa appointments for these nationals.

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Where can I find support if I have immigration or concerns?

Please visit ISSS with any F-1/J-1 immigration concerns or questions. Our Advisers provide a welcoming, safe environment to explore any worries you may have related to your visa status, as well as explore options and immigration benefits. For complex issues beyond our scope, we can assist you in finding a referral for an immigration attorney.

Where can I find support for anxiety or stress?

Enrolled UMD student can access resources through the Counseling Center, including individual confidential counseling appointments, groups, self-help tools, and more. Here are some options for accessing support from the Counseling Center:

- Counselor support is available on a walk-in basis: 3-4pm Mon – Friday. No cost and no need for an appointment
- Make an appointment with a counselor at (301) 314-7651 or stop by the Counseling Center reception desk on the main level of Shoemaker Building.
- International support group

Meet other international students, learn about U.S. culture, solve problems, and practice speaking English as you help each other adjust to life in the United States.

Mondays -5 to 6:30 p.m.
(Contact Dr. Yi-Jiun Lin)
Wednesdays 6 to 7:30 p.m.
(Contact Dr. Jinhee Kang)

- UMD employees and Visiting Scholars or postdocs can find support through the Faculty and Staff assistance program which provides free, confidential counseling and referrals.

Where can Undocumented Students find support?

The [Undocumented Student Resources](#) website provides a wealth of information, legal support and resources.

NAFSA's [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals](#) resource page provides detailed tracking the current state of issues for DACA.

What things could currently jeopardize my status?

At any time, it is important to avoid any violations of your F-1 or J-1 status. In addition to enrollment requirements, address reporting, or employment restrictions individuals in non-immigrant status are expected to refrain from breaking any U.S. state or federal laws. (The American Civil Liberties Union has a series of Know Your Rights resources available including being stopped by police, and attending demonstrations/protests.) Please think carefully before engaging in protest activities, as arrests can seriously impact immigration status or future visa applications. Arrests or convictions that involve violence, drugs or alcohol can have serious or long-lasting impact on current or future immigration status.

Also be aware that while marijuana use is legal in many U.S. states, it remains illegal at the federal level and use constitutes a violation of federal law. Use of marijuana, or alcohol/drug-related DUI arrests or convictions can lead to severe immigration consequences ranging from fines, visa cancellation to deportation.

If you are arrested or have any legal concerns, please contact ISSS immediately. In such cases, we urge you to retain immigration legal counsel to advise you as to next steps and possible consequences. UMD Graduate Legal Aid provides legal resources related for enrolled students.

ISSS Student and Scholar Advisers are available for Walk-In Advising hours Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 1:30pm – 4pm.

How will the H1B program be affected?

At this time, there is no information regarding what actual changes we will see in the future for any particular visa category. Current regulations remain in place until any changes the new administration chooses to make. Be aware that changes in laws or regulations take time and will have advance warning. ISSS is aware there is a draft executive order "Protecting American Jobs and Workers by Strengthening the Integrity of Foreign Worker Visa Program" and will continue to monitor this situation.

Does the Executive Order apply to those currently being adjudicated for naturalization?

No. USCIS will continue to adjudicate N-400 applications for naturalization and administer the oath of citizenship consistent with prior practices.

What are my rights and how can I protect myself?

The American Civil Liberties Union has a series of [Know Your Rights](#) resources available on topics of immigration status, being stopped by police, attending demonstrations/protests, and anti-Muslim discrimination. The Know Your Rights When Encountering Law Enforcement pamphlet offers specific advice about airports and ports of entry.