



*This page contains information about immigration regulations
international scholars and faculty that can be useful during the COVID-19 situation*

ISSS Processing Update #4

This notice serves to provide an ISSS update on U.S. immigration as it relates to the hiring of foreign nationals and the impact of COVID-19 travel restrictions.

ISSS is writing to provide an update on the latest Proclamations and immigration updates and their impact on our international scholars and faculty. Below we are providing guidance to assist you with better understanding the Proclamations' impact on UMD. The following topics are included in this email:

1. [Proclamation Suspending Entry of Aliens Who Present a Risk to the U.S. Labor Market Following the Coronavirus Outbreak](#)
2. [Proclamation on the Suspension of Entry as Nonimmigrants of Certain Students and Researchers from the People's Republic of China](#)
3. [Status of routine visa processing](#)
4. [Premium processing has resumed](#)

We are [available](#) this week to meet with you and your international students, scholars and faculty to answer any questions and address your concerns. We will be sending out an invitation for a Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, June 25 at 2:00 pm.

Summary of Proclamations

Proclamation: [Proclamation Suspending Entry of Aliens Who Present a Risk to the U.S. Labor Market Following the Coronavirus Outbreak](#)

Effective June 24, 2020, the President issued a proclamation to suspend the entry of H-1B temporary workers, H-4, L-1, H-2B and certain J-1 categories and their dependents who:

- a) are outside the United States on or after June 24, the effective date of this proclamation;
- b) do not have a nonimmigrant visa that is valid on June 24, the effective date of this proclamation;
and
- c) do not have an advance parole document or other U.S. travel document.

Who is not affected?

- Foreign nationals currently in the U.S. in one of the following immigration statuses: H-1B, H-4, L-1, H-2B and J-1 and their dependents.
- J-1 and J-2 dependents in the following categories: Research Scholar, Short-Term Scholar, Student, Student-Intern, and Specialist. This is the J-1 community at the University of Maryland.
- H-1B employees who have an unexpired H-1B visa stamp as of June 24, 2020 and are outside the U.S. will be permitted entry during this period.

This Executive Order will not impact the following foreign nationals in the U.S. and who will not depart the U.S. during this period. We continue to process H-1B extensions, change of employer, amendments and change of status petitions.

- Foreign nationals who hold J-1 status and plan to apply for a change of status to H-1B
- Foreign nationals who hold F-1 OPT and F-1 OPT STEM and plan to apply for a change of status to H-1B
- Foreign nationals who currently hold H-1B status and wish to amend, extend or change employers

Who is affected?

The Proclamation affects H-1B, H-4, L-1, H-2B, and certain J-1s who are outside the U.S. and do not have a valid visa as of June 24, 2020 or a valid advance parole document.

The Proclamation extends the suspension of immigrant visas into the U.S. through December 31, 2020.

Proclamation: [Proclamation on the Suspension of Entry as Nonimmigrants of Certain Students and Researchers from the People's Republic of China](#)

On May 29, 2020, the President issued a proclamation to suspend the entry of certain Chinese nationals in F-1 or J-1 status who seek to study and conduct research in the U.S. This proclamation became effective June 1 and impacts students who seek to study at the graduate level and researchers from China "who either receives funding from or who currently is employed by, studies at, or conducts research at or on behalf of, or has been employed by, studied at, or conducted research at or on behalf of, an entity in the PRC that implements or supports the PRC's "military-civil fusion strategy."

The Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security are expected to provide further detail on how the proclamation will be implemented. ISSS is closely monitoring the implementation of the new proclamation and will provide updates as they

Immigration Updates

U.S. Embassies and consulates abroad remain closed.

On March 20, 2020, all routine immigrant and nonimmigrant visa appointments were canceled worldwide. The U.S. Department of State has more details published [here](#).

USCIS has resumed its [premium processing service](#) for I-129 and I-140 petitions

- Effective June 1, 2020, USCIS resumed premium processing services for I-140 employment-based applications for permanent residency.
- As of June 23, 2020, USCIS resumed premium processing for all Form I-129 petitions, including the H-1B and O-1 Extraordinary Ability classification.

Additional Information on the changes with immigration processing and other impacts for UMD can be found at the [ISSS web site](#).