

Update for International Scholars on Nonimmigrant Visas (J-1, H-1, F-1OPT, F-1 STEM OPT, O-1, B-1, etc.)

On Thursday, February 9, 2017 a federal appeals court **declined** to reinstate parts of President Trump's Executive Order from January 27, which imposed a ban on travel and visa issuance for nationals of seven countries. A Temporary Restraining Order remains in place pending further review by the courts.

What does this mean if you are from one of the seven countries affected by the original Executive Order (Libya, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen)? It means that for the moment:

- Citizens of the 7 countries listed above, with valid documents and US entry visas, should continue to be admitted to the US.
- US Consulates should continue to schedule appointments and accept visa applications from these 7 countries.

However, this could change at any time.

If you are from one of these 7 countries, the International Scholars Office advises you to think very carefully about your need to travel outside the United States. ***At this time, it is advised not to travel if a new US entry visa would be needed in order to return.***

If you *must* travel for *urgent* reasons, you should consult a qualified immigration attorney *before* traveling.

All visa applicants must be interviewed by US consular officials. As always, when applying for visas at US consulates abroad, citizens of these seven countries will still be subject to mandatory security clearances, which can take several months or longer.

Dual Nationals

An individual holding a passport from another country (not on the list of 7 countries), who presents that passport with a valid US visa stamp, is still eligible for admission to the US (regardless of the country of birth).

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

<https://www.cbp.gov/border-security/protecting-nation-foreign-terrorist-entry-united-states>

Update for US Permanent Residents

White House counsel has issued guidance stating that an individual holding a passport from one of the 7 countries listed above who has been granted US Permanent Residence (green card) is still eligible for admission to the US.

"Lawful Permanent Residents of the United States traveling on a valid I-551 will be allowed to board U.S. bound aircraft and will be assessed for exceptions at arrival ports of entry, as appropriate. The entry of these individuals, subject to national security checks, is in the national interest. Therefore, we expect

swift entry for these individuals.” <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2017/01/29/protecting-nation-foreign-terrorist-entry-united-states>

Please see previous announcements, helpful information, and resources on the International Scholars Office webpage at:

<http://web.mit.edu/scholars/news/index.html#eoresources>