

Questions and Answers about the Presidential Proclamation of September 24, 2017

*"Enhancing Vetting Capabilities and Processes for Detecting Attempted Entry Into the United States by
Terrorists or Other Public-Safety Threats"*

Q. When do the Proclamation and travel restrictions expire?

- A. Unlike previous Executive Orders imposing travel restrictions, the new travel restrictions do not have an expiration date. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security will conduct periodic reviews of all countries to determine if current restrictions will be continued, modified, or terminated, and if additional countries will face travel restrictions. The restrictions will remain in place unless and until such a determination is made. You will be notified of any changes or updates and they will be posted on the [ISchO website](#).

Q. What about my spouse and children? How does this impact them?

- A. Family members (dependents/derivative beneficiaries) currently in J-2, H-4, TD, O-3, E-3D, F-2, B-2 or WB/WT status or planning to apply for such visas or admission to the U.S. are subject to the same restrictions as the principal scholar or student. Please read a summary of those restrictions on [ISchO website](#).

Q. If I am not from one of the countries named in the Proclamation, may I still travel and reenter the U.S.?

- A. Even if your country is not subject to the restrictions in the Proclamation, travelers to the U.S., regardless of nationality, should expect increased security and vetting procedures both at U.S. Consulates abroad and at U.S. ports-of-entry.

Q. I already have a valid visa in my passport, does this mean I can travel and reenter without difficulty?

- A. Per Section 3 of the [Proclamation](#), the restrictions only apply to foreign nationals who are outside the U.S., do not have a valid visa for reentry by the effective date of the restrictions, and do not qualify for a visa or valid travel document.

Even if you are not subject to the restrictions, however, you should be prepared for increased scrutiny and may be subject to security clearances by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at the airport or border before being permitted to reenter the U.S.

Q. By the time I travel next time outside the U.S, the visa stamp in my passport will be expired, so I will need to renew it. Will there be any difficulty? How long will it take?

- A. If you and members of your family are nationals of one of the countries subject to travel restrictions, depending on your visa status, you may/may not be subject to the restrictions. For example, Iranian citizens seeking F, J or M, visas will be permitted to apply for visas and for admission to the U.S. Visa issuance and admission to the U.S. is suspended for all other Iranians. For information about security clearances and visa renewals please see the ISchO

[website visa section](#). For a complete list of countries and the new rules, please read the announcement and [ISchO website](#) to find the summary about your particular country.

Q. Do these restriction apply if I just want to travel to Canada for a visit?

- A. Be aware that some foreign nationals require a Canadian entry visa to get into Canada. A foreign national from Syria or North Korea who travels to Canada is restricted from entering the U.S. unless Customs and Border Protection determines a waiver of the restrictions is possible. This is very risky. So, for this reason, nationals of Syria and North Korea are advised not to attempt travel and reenter to the U.S. Citizens of Chad, Libya, Yemen and government travelers from Venezuela in B-1 or B-2 status may *not* enter the U.S. Citizens of Iran may not enter the U.S. unless they are in J, F or M visa status.

Before traveling, read the [ISchO Travel to Canada](#) web page and [ISchO Travel Advisory](#). Automatic revalidation for eligible nationals from the countries named in the Proclamation is still risky and not recommended.

Q. I am in the U.S. in J status and my visa stamp is already expired. Can I take a cruise trip to the adjacent islands?

- A. Technically, as long as the locations of the cruise are covered under [Automatic Revalidation of Visas](#), your return to the U.S. seaport should not be denied based on the President's recent proclamation. Note:
- Foreign nationals should check whether an entry visa is required to visit the particular Caribbean islands
 - Nationals of [Iran, Sudan, Syria](#) are not eligible for Automatic Revalidation of Visas
 - Nationals of other countries listed in the Presidential Proclamation of September 24, 2017, may be subject to security clearances by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) before being permitted to reenter the U.S. This may cause delays beyond the 30-day automatic revalidation period. Therefore, travel outside of the U.S. without a valid visa stamp for reentry is not recommend. Please consult with the ISchO if you believe travel may be necessary.

Q. What if I am on an H-1B visa?

- A. Foreign nationals on H-1B visas are not eligible for Automatic Revalidation of Visas unless traveling to Canada or Mexico ("contiguous territory"). Note:
- Nationals of [Iran, Sudan, Syria](#) are not eligible for Automatic Revalidation of Visas
 - Nationals of other countries listed in the Presidential Proclamation of September 24, 2017, may be subject to security clearances by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) before being permitted to reenter the U.S. This may cause delays beyond the 30-day automatic revalidation period. Therefore, travel outside of the U.S. without a valid visa stamp for reentry is not recommend. Please consult with the ISchO if you believe travel may be necessary.

Q. I have or will soon have a change of status application pending with USCIS. Will my application be affected by this Proclamation?

- A. This Proclamation restricts “travel” into the U.S. by nationals of the restricted countries. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services service centers will continue to process applications inside the U.S. for nationals of these eight countries. If USCIS changes their policy, we will inform you. If you are working with the International Scholars Office on a change of status (to H-1B, for example), ISchO will continue working on your case. Please contact ISchO if you have any other questions about your application.