International Travel for International Students and Scholars

International Travel During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Travel Bans and Restrictions

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Yale University Travel Restrictions [1]

Travel Bans and Restrictions

Apart from U.S. embassies and consulates abroad being closed or having limited visa services, the White House has announced a series of travel restrictions related to COVID-19. Travel has also been affected by reduced or canceled flights to the U.S. For a detailed list of travel bans or restrictions in place now please go to the NAFSA: Association of International Educators website. [2]

Preparing to return to the U.S. and Yale

- Read and follow the Yale COVID-19 guidance [3]
- Check with your host department or school administration to review all protocols
- In some cases it may help if you have a letter from your host department or school administration explaining that you are expected to be on campus
- Some students and scholars have reported that they were able to return to the U.S. from a travel restricted country if they stayed in a non-travel restricted country for 14 days immediately prior to entering the U.S. Before making any travel plans, you should confirm that there are no travel restrictions in any of the transit countries that could affect your itinerary. In addition, check with your airline to make certain you have the rights status to transit in a third country.

June 22nd Presidential Proclamation [4]

Suspends entry into the United States by certain H-1B Temporary Workers.

May 24, 2020: Brazil Proclamation [5]

Affects all visas, including F, J and H for those residing in Brazil during the 14-day period preceding their entry or attempted entry into the United States.

April 22, 2020: Immigrant Visa Proclamation (10014) [6]

Suspends entry of certain new immigrants (green card applicants.) The proclamation does not currently impact applicants for adjustment of status or nonimmigrants such as students, H-1B workers, visitors for business or pleasure, etc.

June 16, 2020: Canada-Mexico “Essential Travel” Restrictions

Affects all visas, including F, J and H for those residing in Mexico or Canada during the 14-day period preceding their entry or attempted entry into the United States. Acting Department of Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf announced an extension [7] of the March 2020 travel restriction on entry to the United States through land ports of entry along the U.S.-Canada and U.S. Mexico borders for “essential travel” only.

March 14, 2020: Ireland and United Kingdom Proclamation (9996) [8]

Affects all visas, including F, J and H for those residing in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and the...
Republic of Ireland who were physically present during the 14-day period preceding their entry to the U.S.

March 11, 2020: European Schengen Area Proclamation (9993) [9]
Affects all visas, including F, J and H for those residing in the Schengen Area during the 14-day period preceding their entry to the U.S.

February 29, 2020: Iran Travel Proclamation (9992) [10]
Affects all visas, including F, J and H for those residing in the Islamic Republic of Iran during the 14-day period preceding their entry to the U.S.

January 31, 2020 China Travel Proclamation (9984) [11]
Affects all visas, including F, J and H for those residing in the People's Republic of China, excluding the Special Autonomous Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, during the 14-day period preceding their entry to the U.S.

Consulate & Embassy Closures

In response to worldwide challenges related to the outbreak of COVID-19, the Department of State is suspending routine visa services in most countries worldwide [12]. Embassies and consulates in these countries will cancel all routine immigrant and nonimmigrant visa appointments as of March 18, 2020. Check the website of the embassy or consulate for its current operating status. When visa services resume please review application requirements [13] to obtain a new visa. However also keep up to date with University announcements regarding COVID-19, [14] include protocols for being on, or returning to campus.

I-20 and DS-2019 Travel Signatures

F-1 and J-1 visa holders who need a new travel signature on their I-20 or DS-2019 (valid for 12 months, except if you are on OPT, then its every 6 months) should email their OISS adviser. [15] If we can't get you a travel signature before you leave, don't worry we will send you a new form with a signature for your return.

Source URL: https://oiss.yale.edu/covid-19-information/international-travel-for-international-students-and-scholars

Links:
[2] https://www.nafsa.org/regulatory-information/covid-19-restrictions-us-visas-and-entry
[14] https://communications.yale.edu/covid-19-information
[15] https://oiss.yale.edu/about/contact-oiss