International Travel for International Students and Scholars

International Travel During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Travel Bans and Restrictions

Consulate & Embassy Closures

I-20 and DS-2019 Travel Signatures

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 effected by reduced or canceled flights to the U.S. For a detailed list of travel bans or restrictions in place now please go the NAFSA: Association of International Educators website. [1]

May 24, 2020: Brazil Proclamation [2]
Suspends entry into the United States of all aliens (immigrants, nonimmigrants, and other non-U.S. citizens) who were physically present within the Federative Republic of Brazil during the 14-day period preceding their entry or attempted entry into the United States.

April 22, 2020: Immigrant Visa Proclamation (10014) [3]
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.

March 24, 2020: Canada-Mexico “Essential Travel” Restrictions
The announcement restricts entry to the United States through land ports of entry along the U.S.-Canada and U.S. Mexico borders for “essential travel” only. The restrictions have been extended twice, and are currently in effect until June 22, 2020.


March 14, 2020: Ireland and United Kingdom Proclamation (9996) [10], published at 85 FR 15341 (March 18, 2020).
Covers England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland. “The entry into the United States, as immigrants or nonimmigrants, of all aliens who were physically present within the United Kingdom, excluding overseas territories outside of Europe, or the Republic of Ireland during the 14-day period preceding their entry to the U.S.

March 11, 2020: European Schengen Area Proclamation (9993) [11]
Suspends all travel into the United States for immigrants or nonimmigrants who were physically present within the Schengen Area during the 14-day period preceding their entry to the U.S.

February 29, 2020: Iran Travel Proclamation (9992) [12]
Suspends entry into the United States of all aliens (immigrants, nonimmigrants, and other non U.S. citizens) who were physically present within the Islamic Republic of Iran during the 14-day period preceding their entry to the U.S.
January 31, 2020 China Travel Proclamation (9984) [13]
Suspends entry into the United States of all immigrants, nonimmigrants who were physically present within 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 [14]. 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 [15] to obtain a new visa. However also keep up to date with University announcements regarding COVID-19, [16] 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. [17] 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.

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Links:
[1] https://www.nafsa.org/regulatory-information/covid-19-restrictions-us-visas-and-entry
[15] https://oiss.yale.edu/travel/renewing-your-visa
[16] https://communications.yale.edu/covid-19-information
[17] https://oiss.yale.edu/about/contact-oiss