

Recent Immigration Actions & Impact to Countries of Concern

Support for UR community members from Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria & Yemen

Friday, February 3, 2017 • 12:00 noon

UR Community

Information – accurate, up-to-date

Planning – personal decisions

Concerns – anxiety, separation, uncertainty

You are not alone! Find support in others!

Executive Order: 1/27/2017

Section 3: Suspension of visa issuance and other benefits to certain foreign nationals

- “Aliens from countries” referenced as Countries of Concern by Dept. of State (*Visa Waiver Program*)
- “Suspend entry into the United States” for 90 days
 - Immigrants and nonimmigrants
 - Excluding diplomatic visa categories

Executive Order: 1/27/2017

Section 5: Realignment of US Refugee Admissions Program

- Suspension of refugee admissions for 120 days, and indefinitely for nationals of Syria
- Revise procedures to grant refugee admission
- Then, resume refugee program only for foreign nationals who satisfy those new procedures

Clarifications & Guidance

Per US Customs & Border Protection (CBP):

- Travelers will be evaluated based on the travel document they present at US Port of Entry
 - Dual citizens may travel on unrestricted passport
 - Does not necessarily apply to Country of Birth
- F/J/M visa holders are subject to travel restrictions
 - Individuals already in the US are not affected

Clarifications & Guidance

Per US Customs & Border Protection (CBP):

- Case-by-case exemptions for national interest
 - US Lawful Permanent Residents (1/29/17)
 - Landed Immigrants of Canada, with valid visa

Per US Department of State (DOS):

- Valid visas are revoked, based on passport used
- Visa appointments are canceled, pending review

Mandated Review

- Determine information needed to approve “any visa, admission, or other benefit”
 - Homeland Security, State, National Intelligence
 - *30 days*: Identify required details & a list of countries that do not provide adequate info
 - *60 days*: Deadline to foreign governments for compliance with required information
 - Option to impose similar restrictions

What We Know

- Admission to US is predictably restrictive
 - Airlines are preventing travelers from boarding
 - Primary determination by traveler’s passport
 - *Individuals in the US are cautioned to remain!*
- Broader restrictions are possible, even likely
 - Other countries may become subject
 - Reference to other immigration benefits

What We Don't Know

- Which countries are impacted long term?
 - Consider ability of foreign government to comply with new information requirements
- How will “other benefits” be interpreted?
 - US Citizenship & Immigration Service (CIS)
 - Applications for employment authorization, change of immigration status/category, etc.

University Sponsorship

ISO will continue to process updates and authorizations, according to regulations

- Extensions of F-1 and J-1 programs
- F-1 Curricular Practical Training (CPT), J-1 Academic Training (AT) & On-campus
- Permissions to reduce course load
- SEVIS Immigration Transfers
- Reporting requirements for current population

Applications to USCIS

- Some uncertainty; No known policy changes
 - F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT)
 - H-1B Specialty Occupations, O-1, etc.
 - Refugee/Assylum petitions
- Pending applications & ability to file
 - Waiting to see about cases filed before 1/27/17
 - Consider filing benefit requests before 90 days

Looking Ahead

- Executive Orders are temporary, narrow
 - Suspended activity during review period
 - Drafts: Employment, DACA, Public services
- Regulatory changes must follow process!
 - Congress passes law; Agencies write regulations
 - Published draft, open to review and comment
 - Typically with a future implementation date

University Resources

- International Services Office
585-275-2866, www.iso.rochester.edu
- University Counseling Center
585-275-3113, www.rochester.edu/ucc
- CARE Referral, for students of concern (inc. yourself)
www.rochester.edu/care/reports.html
- Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning
585-275-9049, www.rochester.edu/college/cetl/
- Academic Advisers, departments, peers, etc.

Support: What do you need??

- Housing & dining, during summer break
- Impact to foreign funding sources
- Employment authorizations, Residency, etc.
- Academic planning
 - Timing to complete degree & file for benefits
 - Options to continue/complete overseas
- Impact to family members, here & abroad