



## **Dashew Center** for International Students & Scholars

Dear UCLA International Students and Scholars,

As Chancellor Frenk shared in a [recent message to campus](#), "UCLA's excellence relies on our global engagement and the contributions of our diverse students, faculty, and staff from nearly every corner of the world."

We recognize that many of our international Bruins are feeling very anxious due to federal policy changes. In light of this, we are writing to share important updates regarding recent actions by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ([DHS](#)) and the U.S. Department of State ([DOS](#)), guidance on international travel, and information about compliance responsibilities. We want to provide as much support to you as we can.

### **Recent SEVIS Terminations by SEVP and Reactivations:**

Recently, the Student and Exchange Visitor Program ([SEVP](#)) conducted Student and Exchange Visitor Information System ([SEVIS](#)) terminations affecting a small number of currently enrolled international students and those participating in the Post-Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) program. These actions were largely the result of criminal or misdemeanor charges, including situations where charges were not filed, were later dropped, or led to convictions.

As of April 28, 2025, SEVP has reversed those SEVIS termination actions, and all such records are now back to active status. The Dashew Center has notified and contacted impacted students.

### **Visa Revocations:**

We are aware of cases in which individuals' visas were revoked following legal encounters involving law enforcement. Please be advised that visa revocations are carried out by the DOS, and can occur even while you are still in the U.S. Such revocations may affect your ability to travel internationally and re-enter the country.

If you currently face or had criminal or misdemeanor charges, or have reason to believe that such charges are pending with any local or federal law enforcement agency, we strongly recommend that you consult with an experienced immigration attorney to determine next steps prior to any international travel.

### **International Travel Advisory:**

As we approach the summer travel season, the Dashew Center encourages you to exercise caution and make informed decisions regarding your international travel. We highly recommend you review the [March 19](#) message to remain informed and compliant. In addition, we also advise you to check the "[Before You Go](#)" page on the DOS website for important

information on your specific travel destination.

### **Automatic Revalidation - Travel to Mexico or Canada:**

We highly encourage you to [review the rules and restrictions](#) carefully before deciding to use this reentry option from Mexico or Canada.

**Important Note:** F-1 and J-1 status holders who applied for a visa renewal in Mexico or Canada and have a pending or denied visa application are not eligible for automatic revalidation.

### **Travel Advisory and Required Documents:**

If you are planning to travel internationally, we urge you to be cautious and well-prepared:

- Verify that your entry F-1/J-1 visa is valid. If you are planning to apply for a new visa, please check the [Global Visa Wait Times](#).
- Ensure your Form I-20 or DS-2019 is valid and properly signed for travel.
- Carry proof of enrollment, financial support, and any other relevant supporting documents.
- If you are conducting research in a Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM) field, we also recommend including a letter from your faculty advisor that outlines the details of your research.

### **Making Informed Decisions:**

Before making any international travel plans, carefully assess your immigration status and consult with Dashew Center counselors, or seek legal counsel as needed. Please note that re-entry into the U.S. can be denied for various reasons, including prior immigration violations, current and past legal issues, or evolving [Presidential Actions](#).

### **Planned DHS and DOS Rules:**

DHS and DOS are reportedly working on new rules and practices that would initiate SEVIS termination and visa revocation for certain immigration violations or individuals with criminal records. Although these rules are still being developed, it is essential to stay informed and attentive to your immigration compliance obligations.

We encourage you to review the [April 4, 2025, message](#) regarding the type of information shared with DHS by the university.

### **Important Reminders:**

If you have ever had any negative interactions with law enforcement while in the U.S., even if no charges were filed, it is highly recommended that you seek legal advice before traveling internationally or applying for any visa benefits.

If you need legal support or guidance, contact one of the following resources as applicable:

- [Immigration Attorneys \(outside counsel\)](#)
- [University of California Immigrant Legal Services Center](#)

## Compliance Responsibilities:

We would like to emphasize that maintaining full compliance with all F-1 or J-1 visa regulations is crucial to prevent any adverse immigration outcomes. Please refer to following links to learn more details about your immigration compliance responsibilities:

**F-1 status:** <https://internationalcenter.ucla.edu/f-1-students/currently-enrolled>

### J-1 status:

Students: <https://internationalcenter.ucla.edu/j-1-students/maintaining-j-1-status>

Scholars: <https://internationalcenter.ucla.edu/j-1-scholars/maintaining-j-1-status>

It is equally important to follow local and federal laws to avoid any negative encounters with law enforcement that could potentially jeopardize your immigration and visa status. Make sure to review the [Laws to Know](#) page and your F-1/J-1 guidance on employment options on the [Employment Resources](#) page.

## Dashew Center is Here to Support You:

As always, the Dashew Center is here to guide and assist you. Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions or concerns about your immigration status, travel plans, or any related matters.

Our counselors and advisors are available to assist you with your questions [both virtually and in-person](#) Monday through Friday, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, excluding [university holidays](#).

You can find our latest messages and important visa and legal support resources at the [Dashew Center website](#). We are committed to supporting your success and well-being during your time at UCLA. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us for assistance, and we wish you all the best for the rest of the spring quarter.

Sincerely,

Sam Nahidi  
Director

A Department of Student Affairs