

Dear International Students, Scholars, Staff, and Faculty,

We realize these are challenging times for our entire community, but we also recognize the additional stresses the pandemic has wrought on those who are far from family and friends in other parts of the world. Please know that UCLA and the Dashew Center remain committed to supporting and assisting you in any way possible.

I know that the anxiety many of you already face was only compounded by this week's announcement by the White House to release a proclamation "[Suspending Entry of Aliens Who Present a Risk to the U.S. Labor Market Following the Coronavirus Outbreak](#)." This latest action expands the [Proclamation](#) issued on April 22nd suspending the entry of any individual seeking entry to the U.S. pursuant to any of the following nonimmigrant visas on the basis of U.S. economic recovery from COVID-19:

H-1B visas, H-2B visas, some J visas, L visas and dependents of any aforementioned visa category.

This proclamation does not apply to anyone already in the United States or anyone issued a visa prior to the effective date of June 24. This travel ban is effective from June 24 until through December 31 of this year, but is subject to extensions and modifications by the President.

We hope the following list of Frequently Asked Questions provides helpful information to all of you.

- **Which student and scholar nonimmigrant visa categories at UCLA are not affected by the proclamation?**
  - F-1 students (including those on/requesting OPT/STEM OPT Extension) and their dependents
  - J-1 students (degree and non-degree, including those on /requesting Academic Training) and their dependents
  - J-1 scholar categories (research scholar, professor, short-term scholar, specialist) and their dependents
- **I am currently in the U.S. with an approved/valid H-1B, H-2B, J-1 (other than categories mentioned above), or L-1 non-immigrant status. Will this proclamation affect me?**

The suspension of entry does not apply to any individuals who have already been issued a valid U.S. visa or those who have already been admitted or paroled to the U.S. prior to 6/24/2020.
- **Does the proclamation affect any current Exchange Visitors (J-1 visa holders) at UCLA?**

None of UCLA's designated J-1 categories are affected by this proclamation. If the J-1 program sponsor in Box 2 of your DS-2019 form is not UCLA, please contact your program sponsor for clarification.
- **Who else is exempt from the proclamation?**

The suspension and limitation on entry pursuant to this proclamation does not apply to:

  - any lawful permanent resident (i.e. green card holder) of the United States
  - any foreign national who is the spouse or child of a United States citizen

- any foreign national seeking to enter the United States to provide temporary labor or services essential to the United States food supply chain; and
  - any foreign national whose entry would be in the national interest (*see next question for more information*) as determined by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, or their respective designees.
- **Who qualifies for national interest exceptions and how are they determined?**  
National interest exceptions include those who are:
    - critical to the defense, law enforcement, diplomacy, or national security of the United States
    - involved with the provision of medical care to individuals who have contracted COVID-19 and are currently hospitalized
    - involved with the provision of medical research at United States facilities to help the United States combat COVID-19
    - necessary to facilitate the immediate and continued economic recovery of the United States

The consular officer will determine eligibility for any of the four exceptions, according to standards established by the Secretary of State, Homeland Security, and Labor.

- **I am currently outside of the U.S. with a nonimmigrant visa not listed in the presidential proclamation (e.g. F-1 and dependents (including OPT/STEM OPT), J-1 student/scholar and dependents, E-3, O-1, O-2, O-3, TN, TD), does this proclamation impact me?**  
No, this proclamation does not impact you. If you have not yet applied for your visa, you can still apply although you may have to wait for U.S. embassies and consulates to reopen once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Please be mindful of existing travel restrictions into the United States.
- **I am currently outside of the United States with an approved H-1B, H-2B, or L-1 I-797 Approval Notice, but do not have a valid visa issued by a U.S. Embassy or Consulate. Does this proclamation affect me?**  
Unfortunately, individuals currently outside of the U.S. that have an approved H-1B, H-2B, or L-1 I-797 Approval Notice, but do not have a valid visa issued by a U.S. Embassy or Consulate by 6/24/2020 will be subject to the proclamation.
- **I am currently in the U.S. with a valid nonimmigrant status and have applied/will apply for a change-of-status to another visa category through USCIS. Does this proclamation impact me?**  
No, this proclamation does not impact you. If you have applied for a change-of-status to another visa category, USCIS can still approve your application.  
Individuals currently outside of the U.S. that have an approved H-1B, H-2B, J-1, or L-1 I-797 Approval Notice, but do not have a valid visa issued by a U.S. Embassy or Consulate by 6/24/2020 will be subject to the proclamation.
- **I am currently in the U.S. with valid nonimmigrant status and have applied/will apply for a change-of-employer/transfer through USCIS. Does this proclamation impact me?**  
No, this proclamation does not impact you. If you have applied for a change-of-employer/transfer to another visa category, USCIS can still approve your application.

- I am currently in the U.S. with a valid nonimmigrant status and I plan on traveling abroad between June 24, 2020 and December 31, 2020. Will I be able to return to the U.S.?**  
It is risky to travel during this time. You can return to the U.S. as long as you have a valid nonimmigrant visa issued in your passport, but keep in mind that you may still be subject to existing travel restrictions into the United States. Currently, all routine visa services are temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you do not have a valid nonimmigrant visa and have to apply at a U.S. embassy or consulate abroad, please consult with the Dashew Center to make an informed decision before traveling internationally.
- When will U.S. embassies and consulates re-open to issue visas?**  
Officially, routine visa services are still suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It appears that some U.S. consular posts started to allow applicants to make nonimmigrant visa appointments for June and July, but seem to be cancelling them as the date approaches. In some situations, consular posts have granted emergency appointments to applicants though the criteria is unclear. Even if U.S. consular posts re-open to issue nonimmigrant visas, the United States continues to ban travel for foreign nationals arriving from China, Brazil, Iran, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and the Schengen Area. Therefore, travel from these countries into the United States is currently prohibited if you have been present in any of them for the past 14 days. You can review all relevant proclamations on our [COVID-19 Updates](#) page.
- Is the original "ban" on immigrant visas (i.e. green cards) still in effect?**  
Yes, the original [proclamation issued on April 22, 2020](#) is still in effect. It was originally supposed to end after 60 days, but this proclamation extends it to December 31, 2020.
- Will there be other Executive Orders/Presidential Proclamations issued in the future affecting other nonimmigrant visa categories?**  
As of today, no official details have been provided by the government regarding future Executive Orders or Presidential Proclamations. Please know that the Dashew Center is working closely with the UC Office of the President (UCOP), UCLA Federal Government Relations (FGR), other UC campuses, and professional organizations (NAFSA, AILA) to monitor and advocate on issues impacting our international community. The Dashew Center will remain in close contact with affected communities if additional information becomes available.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact the Dashew Center to schedule an appointment with an immigration advisor/counselor:

- UCLA F and J visas:

  - Email: [oissassi@saonet.ucla.edu](mailto:oissassi@saonet.ucla.edu). Please include:
    - First and last name
    - Bruin UID (if applicable)
    - Reason for appointment
- UCLA sponsored Employment Based visas:

  - Email: [sottemoe@saonet.ucla.edu](mailto:sottemoe@saonet.ucla.edu) or [nabueg@saonet.ucla.edu](mailto:nabueg@saonet.ucla.edu)

We recognize the undue stress that this proclamation has created for our faculty and staff and encourage those who need mental health support to contact the [Faculty and Staff Counseling Center](#) to connect with

mental health resources. If you feel the need to seek legal counsel, we provide an [attorney list](#) on our website for information purposes. Our students can also access [counseling services](#) and [legal services](#).

The Dashew Center will continue to notify you of any relevant changes in federal immigration regulations and policies through Dashew Center listserv emails. As always, should you need any clarification regarding travel, employment, study, or stay in the U.S., please do not hesitate to contact our office. Please know that the Dashew Center will continue to monitor and advocate on issues impacting our international community.

Sincerely,

Sam Nahidi  
Director