

## Executive Action Summary:

### ***Restrictions on Travel & US Consular Operations due to COVID-19***

Since the outset of the novel coronavirus and resulting COVID-19 pandemic, several US government policies now impact international travel, documentation, and transportation options. For issues related to current University policies, please continue to consult UR's [COVID-19 Resource Center](#). ISO will continue to monitor these and other immigration topics.

#### **Presidential Proclamations restricting US Entry based on Geographic Region**

The following Proclamations limit travel from multiple regions of the world, suspending entry to the US by noncitizens in a nonimmigrant category (immigrant travelers are currently permitted entry by scope or by National Interest Exception). Generally, restrictions do *not* apply to lawful permanent residents, the spouse, parent, or child (if unmarried and under the age of 21) of a US citizen or resident, certain other familial relations, and some visa categories (i.e. A; C; D; G; NATO). Restrictions remain in effect until terminated or modified by the President. For the regions listed below, targeted travelers may not enter the US who were physically present within that region during the 14-day period prior to arriving to the US.

- **Proclamation 9984:** *Effective 2/2/2020 (published 1/31/20)*
  - **China** – impacting travelers from the People’s Republic of China; Hong Kong and Macau are excluded.
- **Proclamation 9992:** *Effective 3/2/2020 (published 2/29/20)*
  - **Iran** – impacting travelers from the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- **Proclamation 10143:** *Effective 1/26/2021 (published 1/25/21); Extends some orders in place since March 2020*
  - **European Schengen Area** – impacting travelers from Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. (*previously #9993, since 3/13/20*)
  - **UK & Ireland** – impacting travelers from the United Kingdom or Ireland, including England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland. (*previously #9996, since 3/16/20*)
  - **Brazil** – impacting travelers from the Federative Republic of Brazil. (*previously #10041, since 3/26/20*)
  - **South Africa** – impacting travelers from the Republic of South Africa (*effective as of 1/30/2021*)
- **Proclamation 10199:** *Effective 5/4/2021 (published 4/30/21)*
  - **India** – impacting nonimmigrant travelers from the Republic of India; immigrant travelers are omitted

**National Interest Exceptions (NIE):** Articles in each Proclamation allow authorities to permit travel for designated noncitizens whose entry to the US is in the national interest. In summer 2020, US Department of State (DOS) policy indicated that F-1 and M-1 students traveling from the Schengen Area, the UK, and Ireland automatically qualified for a NIE. On [4/26/21](#), DOS updated their automatic NIE eligibility language to include ‘students and certain academics’ from China, Iran, Brazil, and South Africa who will begin or continue their academic program on August 1, 2021 or later (\*). On [4/30/21](#), DOS expanded NIE eligibility for students traveling from India as well. With the NIE, students are still permitted to enter the US up to 30 days before the start of studies. Students traveling from impacted regions before August 1<sup>st</sup> (\*) and individuals in other visa categories not automatically eligible (non-academic Js, H, O, etc.) must contact the local US Embassy or Consulate to request a national interest exception, which may require demonstration of their role to support of vital infrastructure, public health response, etc.

\* *Note:* There is some ambiguity around the August 1<sup>st</sup> academic program date. For students from China, Iran, Brazil, South Africa and India, the NIE should clearly be granted if they will begin their studies after this date. However, for such students scheduled to study prior to August 1, there is little guidance on whether they can obtain an F/M visa in their home country and still satisfy a 14-day residency in another country to overcome the travel restrictions. Additionally, for students from the Schengen Area, UK, and Ireland, the spring 2021 updates do not directly confirm whether NIE eligibility remains intact under the 2020 policy (without a date restriction) or whether their travel may be impacted prior to August 1. Case-specific inquiries should be directed to DOS via the US Embassy or Consulate.

# Executive Action Summary:

## ***Restrictions on Travel & US Consular Operations due to COVID-19***

### **Presidential Proclamations restricting US Entry based on the US Labor Market**

The following Proclamations had been in place to limit travel by certain immigrants and nonimmigrants with US work authorization under their visa category. These restrictions are no longer in effect.

- **Proclamation #10014:** *Suspending Entry of Immigrants Who Present a Risk to the US Labor Market During Economic Recovery Following the COVID-19 Outbreak*  
Restrictions on new Immigrant Visas, effective April 22, 2020; *REVOKED* February 24, 2021
- **Proclamation #10052:** *Proclamation Suspending Entry of Aliens Who Present a Risk to the US Labor Market Following the Coronavirus Outbreak.*  
Restriction on H, J & L Nonimmigrants, effective June 22, 2020; *EXPIRED* March 31, 2021  
Visa applicants who were previously refused a visa due to these restrictions may reapply with a new filing & fee.

### **General Restrictions on Travel & US Consular/Visa Operations**

- **Visa Processing** – Closures of US Embassies and Consulates worldwide took effect in March 2020. Based on local conditions, a phased resumption of services began in July. Check [visa wait times](#) or [contact](#) your Consular office.
- **Canada/Mexico Land Borders** – Limitations on “essential travel only” between the US and [Canada](#) or [Mexico](#) are in place since March, and renewable monthly. Travel by air, or to attend school or work should not be impacted.
- **Testing & Quarantine Requirements** – Please check for updated guidance on [New York State’s travel advisory](#).