

Dear International Students,

I am writing to provide information and to offer support as a new government administration makes sudden changes to the rules governing visas and entry to the United States.

President Donald Trump has used his executive authority to make changes to U.S. immigration policy regarding entry into the United States. On the afternoon of January 27, 2017, President Trump signed an Executive Order prohibiting the issuance of visas and entry to the U.S. of persons from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen for 90 days. During this 90-day period, it is advisable that international students and scholars from these countries not travel outside the United States unless absolutely necessary. Even after this 90-day period is over, we are not certain how the visa or port of entry requirements may change. Based on statements from the Trump administration, visa and entry requirements (including background checks of applicants) may become more rigorous.

The Executive Order also blocks the entry of refugees from Syria indefinitely and blocks the entry of refugees from the rest of the world for 120 days, with some very limited exceptions. The stated purpose for these actions is to allow the U.S. government time to re-evaluate its current visa processes.

If you have a specific issue or question related to this Executive Order or international travel, please consult with an ISSO international student advisor. Students may schedule appointments via this link: <https://appointments.isso.iastate.edu/> or email their ISSO advisor directly with a question or to set up a time to meet.

It is likely that there will be other changes to immigration regulations and policy in the near future. ISSO will continue to monitor these developments and keep you informed. Please be sure to read emails and communications from ISSO, and monitor our Immigration Updates page here: <https://www.isso.iastate.edu/resources/immigration-updates>. We have posted a link to the text of the Executive Order on that site.

Our office is here to assist you as are other campus resources such as the Student Counseling Service <http://www.counseling.iastate.edu/>, Student Legal Services <http://www.studentlegal.dso.iastate.edu/>, and the Student Assistance Program <http://www.studentassistance.dso.iastate.edu/>. You are a valued and important member of the Iowa State University community and we want to make sure you get the support you need at this challenging time.

Deb Vance  
Interim Director  
International Students and Scholars Office