March 10, 2017

From the Office of External Relations and Communications

The University of Rhode Island and its Office of International Students & Scholars (OISS) are committed to supporting all members of our community and embracing its global nature. In light of President Donald Trump’s second Executive Order of 3/6/17 on Foreign National Entry into the United States (a/k/a the “Revised Travel Ban”), the University has prepared information and resource contacts for community members who have questions and concerns regarding this new policy. We also describe below in section 1a, the effect of the Hawaii federal court ruling of March 15, which temporarily stops the travel and visa restrictions of the revised travel ban.

FAQ

1. What are the highlights of President Donald Trump’s latest Executive Order (of 3/6/17) on Foreign National Entry into the United States (a/k/a the “Revised Travel Ban”)?

The President’s “Revised Travel Ban” (i.e. his Executive Order of 3/6/17) restricts entry into the United States of nationals (i.e. citizens) from six countries — Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen, Syria and Libya. Iraq was listed among those “restricted countries” in the prior “Travel Ban” EO of 1/27/17, but is no longer identified as a restricted country in the Revised Travel Ban.

Although Iraq is no longer listed as a restricted country, the Executive Order states that nationals of Iraq seeking to enter the U.S. may be subject to “additional inquiries” and a “more comprehensive review.”

The new order, which goes into effect March 16, exempts Green Card holders. They will be permitted to leave the country and return.

The travel ban runs for 90 days from the effective date of the order (March 16) and affects nationals from the six restricted countries. Any nationals from those six countries who are outside the United States on March 16 will not be permitted to enter the U.S. if they did not have a valid visa on Jan. 27, 2017, and do not have a valid visa as of March 16, 2017. Conversely, nationals of the six restricted countries who have a valid visa issued before March 16 will be permitted entry into the U.S. for as long as their visa is in effect.
It is not clear at this time whether current visa holders from the six restricted countries will be able to obtain any renewal or extension of their visas.

1a) Has the revised travel ban been stopped by a court order?

Yes. Under a federal district court ruling in Hawaii, the administration and enforcement of the revised travel ban has been stopped. Specifically, this means all nationals of the restricted countries may still apply for and receive a visa for travel to the United States in the same way they were able to prior to the executive order.

For more information:


2. Are any University of Rhode Island international students, scholars, faculty or staff having difficulty returning to the U.S.?

Not at this time.

3. Where can students or scholars seek legal advice regarding their immigration status?

The Lawyer Referral Service of the Rhode Island Bar Association provides referrals to qualified lawyers, upon request. The “LRS” website states that any referral will include an initial, no-cost half hour of legal consultation, but fees will be charged by the lawyer if the lawyer is engaged beyond that initial consultation.

Rhode Island Bar Association Lawyers Referral Service:  [https://www.ribar.com/For%20the%20Public/FindingAndChoosingALawyer.aspx](https://www.ribar.com/For%20the%20Public/FindingAndChoosingALawyer.aspx)

Another service that is made available to individuals through the American Bar Association is Called “Airport Lawyer”. It provides the assistance of voluntary attorneys who are available to assist travelers from any of the restricted countries who are having difficulty entering the U.S, at about a dozen U.S. airports. Information about that program is available at [https://www.airportlawyer.org/](https://www.airportlawyer.org/)

4. Will the University provide housing for international students who choose not to travel to their home country and instead remain in Kingston?

Since the Revised Travel Ban permits travel by people from all countries (including even the six restricted countries) to and from the US under any valid and unexpired visa, there should no longer be a significant concern about students with valid visas travelling to and from their homes, or into and out
of the U.S. for any reason. Nonetheless, the Division of Student Affairs is developing a plan to provide housing as needed by those impacted. The University's first concern is for the safety and security of our students, faculty and staff who may be directly impacted by the Immigration Executive Order. The Division has been assessing, and will continue to assess, the impact on members of our community. Many support services and resources are available through the Division, including but not limited to housing, dining, health, and counseling."

5. **What is the size of the international community at the University?**

The University enrolls about 500 undergraduate and graduate international students, 93 international scholars, as well as many international visitors each year.

6. **What will happen to graduate students who hold an assistantship, since those contracts are renewed each year?**

The University will honor all funding commitments for graduate student assistantship agreements, dependent on visa restrictions.

7. **Is there an impact on students who have been accepted to the University from foreign countries?**

Under the Executive Order of March 6, accepted students who did not have a visa by March 16 would not have been able to obtain one until the ban was lifted in the six restricted countries. That restriction on visa issuance has been temporarily stopped by the federal court order of March 15. Those accepted to the University can still apply for and obtain a visa under the standard procedures in place before the Executive Order.

8. **Where can I find resources to assist with questions regarding international travel and the new immigration order?**

The OISS Team is available to meet those affected directly and indirectly by this order. E-mail: issoff@etal.edu, call the office at (401) 874-2395, or walk in to share your concerns with the staff.

The Office is open 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If you are in the process of applying for an extension of your F or J visa and/or visa status and would like assistance, please contact the OISS.

**Other Resources and Developments**

What to expect when traveling: [The Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Inspection Process](#)
What to expect when traveling: [CBP Search Authority](#)
What to expect when traveling: [Inspection of Electronic Devices by CBP](#)
CBP: [Statement and questions/answers regarding executive order](#)
Department of Homeland Security: [Statement on compliance with executive order](#)
NAFSA Travel Advisory for Nationals of Certain Countries Pursuant to Executive Order
NAFSA Visa Revocation Basics
ACLU of Rhode Island: 401-831-7171

Immigration Advocate Center - Non-Profit Resources in Rhode Island:

Catholic Charities of Providence - Office of Immigration and Refugee Services
Catholic Charities of Providence - Project Hope/Proyecto Esperanza
Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island - Citizenship and Immigration Services
Progreso Latino, Inc.
Sojourner House