

Frequently Asked Questions for International Students about U.S. Presidential Proclamation Suspending Certain Nonimmigrant Entries

What is the U.S. Presidential Proclamation?

On June 22, 2020, U.S. President Donald Trump signed a [Proclamation Suspending Entry of Aliens Who Present a Risk to the U.S. Labor Market following the Coronavirus Outbreak](#). This Proclamation took effect on June 24, 2020, at 12:01 a.m. and will remain in effect through December 31, 2020. The proclamation extends the effective dates of the previous [Proclamation](#) issued on April 22, 2020, suspending entry of certain new immigrants who do not already have an approved immigrant visa. The April 22 Proclamation was originally valid for 60 days (until June 22, 2020); however, the June 22 Proclamation extends the period for an additional six months (until December 31, 2020).

Which nonimmigrant visa categories at UCLA Extension are affected by the June 22 Proclamation?

Please note that, as a rule, UCLA Extension has never issued the following visa categories impacted by the June 22 Proclamation. Here are the non-immigrant visas that are affected:

- H-1B or H-2B visas and any accompanying dependents
- Certain J visas and any accompanying dependents (participating as an intern, trainee, teacher, camp counselor, au pair, or summer work travel program) and any accompanying dependents
- L visas and any accompanying dependents

Which nonimmigrant visa categories at UCLA Extension are NOT affected by the June 22 Proclamation?

UCLA Extension only processes F-1 visa status applications for students (no STEM OPT). If you are seeking entry pursuant to one of the following nonimmigrant visa categories, you will NOT be affected by the June 22 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
- H-1B employees currently in the U.S. (Consult your immigration attorney if you have any international travel plans)
- H-1B employees outside the U.S. with a valid H-1B visa stamp
- Any individuals who have already entered the United States
- Any individuals who have already been issued a valid U.S. nonimmigrant visa prior to June 24, 2020
- Any immigration application or procedure inside the U.S. adjudicated by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), such as an application for OPT, change of status to H-1B, or an extension of H-1B status

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 the June 22 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 June 24, 2020. Individuals who hold an approved/valid H and J visa should always consult with an immigration attorney and with their educational institution before traveling.

I am currently in the U.S. with valid nonimmigrant status and have applied/will apply for a change-of-status to another visa category through USCIS. Does the June 22 Proclamation impact me?

No, the June 22 Proclamation does not impact you. If you have applied for a change-of-status to another visa category, USCIS can still approve your application.

I am currently in the U.S. with refugees/asylum status. Does the June 22 Proclamation impact me?

No, the June 22 Proclamation does not impact you. The Proclamation states that it should not “be construed to limit the ability of an individual to seek asylum, refugee status, withholding of removal, or protection under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, consistent with the laws of the United States.”

I am currently outside of the United States with a nonimmigrant visa not listed in the June 22 Proclamation (e.g., F-1 and dependents, O-1, TN). Will the Proclamation impact me?

No, the June 22 Proclamation will not impact you. If you have not yet applied for your visa, you can still apply. You may, however, 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 the June 22 Proclamation impact me?

Unfortunately, individuals currently outside of the United States who have an approved H-1B, H-2B, or L-1 I-797 Approval Notice, but who do not have a valid visa issued by a U.S. Embassy or Consulate by June 24, 2020, will be subject to the Proclamation.

I am currently in the United States with 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 United States?

It is risky to travel during this time. If it is not absolutely necessary to travel (for example, if it is not a family emergency), we do not encourage students to travel. While you can return to the United States if you have a valid nonimmigrant visa issued in your passport, 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 UCLA Extension International Student Office to make an informed decision before traveling internationally.

When will U.S. Embassies and Consulates reopen 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 2020; however, those appointments seem to be canceled by the Consulates as the appointment date draws closer. In some situations, consular posts have granted emergency appointments to applicants, though the criteria they are using is unclear. Even if U.S. consular posts reopen to issue nonimmigrant visas, the United States continues to ban travel for foreign nationals arriving from [China](#), [Brazil](#), [Iran](#), [the United Kingdom or Ireland](#), and [the Schengen Area](#). Travel from these countries into the United States is currently prohibited if you have visited any of them in the past fourteen days.

Who else is exempt from the June 22 Proclamation?

The suspension and limitation on entry pursuant to the June 22 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;
- any foreign national whose entry would be in the national interest as determined by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, or their respective designees. (*See next question for more information.*)

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 U.S. Secretary of State, Homeland Security, and Labor. For details, please refer to the [U.S. Department of Homeland Security](#) or [U.S. Department of State](#) websites.

Is the original "ban" on immigrant visas (i.e. green cards) still in effect?

Yes, the original [April 22 Proclamation](#) is still in effect. It was originally supposed to end after 60 days; however, the June 22 Proclamation extends it to December 31, 2020.

How do I reach the UCLA Extension International Student Office?

Our International Student Office is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- **E-mail:** iso@uclaextension.edu
- **Phone:** (310) 825-9351