



International Students Seeking Entry to the United States:

Updated July 31, 2020

Presidential Proclamations (PP), [guidance from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement \(ICE\)](#), and the [Foreign Affairs Manual](#), affect the ability for international students to enter, study, and remain in the United States. The chart below outlines how these policies affect F-1 and J-1 international students. This chart does not cover other visa categories. Specifically, below, this chart covers the following Presidential Proclamations and Executive Orders:

- PP 9645—[Enhancing Vetting Capabilities and Processes for Detecting Attempted Entry Into the United States by Terrorists or Other Public-Safety Threats](#) (September 24, 2017)
- PP 9983—[Improving Enhanced Vetting Capabilities and Processes for Detecting Attempted Entry Into the United States by Terrorists or Other Public-Safety Threats](#) (January 31, 2020)
- PP 9984—[Proclamation on Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Persons who Pose a Risk of Transmitting 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#) (January 31, 2020)
- PP 9992—[Proclamation on the Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Certain Additional Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting Coronavirus](#) (February 29, 2020)
- PP 9993—[Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Certain Additional Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#) (March 11, 2020)
- PP 9996—[Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Certain Additional Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#) (March 14, 2020)
- PP 10041—[Proclamation on Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Certain Additional Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting Novel Coronavirus](#) (May 24, 2020)
- PP 10043—[Suspension of Entry as Nonimmigrants of Certain Students and Researchers From the People's Republic of China](#) (May 29, 2020)
- EO 3936—[The President's Executive Order on Hong Kong Normalization](#) (July 14, 2020)

In addition to the Presidential Proclamations and Executive Order (discussed comprehensive below), the most recent ICE Guidance impacts international students in the following ways:



| Type of Student | Impact on F/J Students |
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| <p>New International Students (In July 2020, NAFSA estimated that there are ~186,000 new “initial status” seeking to enter the U.S. to attend college or university.)</p> | <p>Depends. Students who are marked as “initial SEVIS” may not enter the United States if they are in fully online classes. International students with an INITIAL SEVIS I-20 may enter the United States if their schedule is not 100% online. Our best reading is that international students with I-20s marked “initial attendance” taking at least one in-person class (this could be 100% in person or courses that are a mixed delivery with a meaningful component in person) may still be able to study in the United States.</p> |
| <p>Continuing Students (70,000) (In July 2020, NAFSA estimated that there are ~70,000 continuing international students currently outside the U.S. seeking to re-enter the U.S. for their studies)</p> | <p>Yes. Continuing international students will likely be eligible for a visa to enter the United States for a full course of study in any form of instruction: online, in-person, or hybrid.</p> |



| Country/Region & Number of Students ¹ | Impact on F/J Students | EXEMPTION/WAIVER |
|--|--|---|
| Brazil (16,059) | Yes. Under PP 10041 (May 24, 2020), individuals who are not U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents (LPRs) who have been physically present in Brazil, including students, for a previous 14-day period may not enter the United States. | Yes. Some exemptions that international students may be covered by include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● spouse of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident; ● parent or sibling of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident; ● entry would further important United States law enforcement objectives; ● entry would be in the national interest, as determined by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, or their designees. |
| China (369,548) | Yes. Under PP 9984 (January 31, 2020), anyone who has been physically present in China, including students, for a previous 14-day period may not enter the United States. PP 10043 (May 29, 2020) further limits the entry of certain Chinese graduate students. Additionally, EO 3936 instructs agencies to “take steps to terminate the | Yes. Some exemptions that international students may be covered by include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● spouse of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident; ● parent or sibling of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident; ● entry would further important United States law enforcement objectives; ● entry would be in the national interest, as determined by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, or their designees. |

¹ *International Student Totals by Place of Origin, 2000/01-2018/19*, Inst. of Int'l Educ. (2019), available at <https://opendoorsdata.org/data/international-students/all-places-of-origin/>.

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| | Fulbright exchange program with regard to China...with respect to future exchanges for participants traveling both from and to China[.]” | |
| Eritrea (117) | None | N/A |
| Hong Kong (6,917) | EO 3936 instructs agencies to “take steps to terminate the Fulbright exchange program with regard to...Hong Kong with respect to future exchanges for participants traveling both from and to...Hong Kong[.]” | N/A |
| Iran (12,142) | <p>Yes. Under PP 9645 (September 24, 2017), F and J visas are not suspended, but Iranian nationals are subject to additional scrutiny.</p> <p>Under PP 9992 (February 29, 2020), anyone who has been physically present in Iran, including students, for a previous 14-day period may not enter the United States.</p> | <p>Yes. Some exemptions that international students may be covered by include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● spouse of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident; ● parent or sibling of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident; ● entry would further important United States law enforcement objectives; ● entry would be in the national interest, as determined by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, or their designees. |

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| Kyrgyzstan (290) | None | N/A |
| Libya (884) | None | N/A |
| Myanmar (formerly Burma) (1,773) | None | N/A |
| Nigeria (13,423) | None | N/A |
| North Korea (2) | Yes. Under PP 9645 (Sept. 24, 2017), all nonimmigrants from North Korea, including F and J students, are blocked from entering the United States. | Yes. International students covered by 9645 may seek a waiver with the consulate by showing that (1) denying entry would cause undue hardship; (2) entry is in the national interest; (3) entry does not pose a national security threat. |
| Schengen Area (53,629): Austria (1,098), Belgium (1,073), Czech Republic (820), Denmark (1,423), Estonia (184), Finland (716), France (8,716), Germany (9,191), Greece (2,523), Hungary (793), Iceland (407), Italy (6,114), Latvia (244), Liechtenstein (8), Lithuania (318), Luxembourg (101), Malta (38), Netherlands (2,681), Norway (1,988), Poland (1,526), Portugal (973), Slovakia (349), Slovenia (256), Spain (7,262), Sweden (3,460), Switzerland (1,367) | Yes. Under PP 9993 (March 11, 2020), anyone who has been physically present in the Schengen Area, including students, for a previous 14-day period may not enter the United States. | Yes. According to the Department of State, students traveling from the Schengen Area with valid F-1 do not need to contact an embassy or consulate to seek an individual national interest exception to travel and if otherwise qualified will automatically be considered for a national interest exception to travel. Students seeking to apply for new F-1 or M-1 visas should check the status of visa services at the nearest embassy or consulate. |



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| Somalia (76) | None. Under PP 9645 (September 24, 2017), nonimmigrant visas adjudications for Somali nationals are subject to additional scrutiny. | N/A |
| Sudan (319) | None. PP 9983 (January 31, 2020) applies only to entry of diversity immigrants from Sudan. | N/A |
| Syria (566) | Yes. Under PP 9645 (September 24, 2017), all nonimmigrants from Syria, including F and J students, are blocked from entering the United States. | Yes. International students covered by 9645 may seek a waiver with the consulate by showing that (1) denying entry would cause undue hardship; (2) entry is in the national interest; (3) entry does not pose a national security threat |
| Tanzania (834) | None. PP 9983 (January 31, 2020) applies only to entry of diversity immigrants from Tanzania. | N/A |
| U.K. (11,146) and Ireland (1,180) | Yes. Under PP 9996 (March 14, 2020), anyone who has been physically present in the U.K. or Ireland, including students, for a previous 14-day period may not enter the United States. | Yes. According to the Department of State, students traveling from the U.K. and Ireland with valid F-1 do not need to contact an embassy or consulate to seek an individual national interest exception to travel and if otherwise qualified will automatically be considered for a national interest exception to travel. Students seeking to apply for new F-1 or M-1 visas should check the status of visa services at the nearest embassy or consulate. |

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| Venezuela (7,760) | None | N/A |
| Yemen (398) | None | N/A |

Q: Where can I find more resources?

- [Department of State](#)
- [Penn State Law Center for Immigrants' Rights Clinic](#)
- [Immigration in the Time of Trump](#) contains resources for immigrants and the broader community
- Penn State Office of Global Programs [FAQ](#)
- [NAFSA](#)
- [Presidents Alliance on Higher Education](#)