Immigration Updates and Q&A for Administrators

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International Center
Presenters

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Agenda

- Current Status and Concerns regarding Fall
- Review of Proclamations and proposals regarding students
- Where things stand at U-M
- IC updates and resources
- Scholars and Employees
Immigration Updates: Current State

- Remote Learning and SEVP procedural adaptations
- US Embassy/Consulate Closures
- Travel Bans
- Flight availability, restrictions
- I-20/DS-2019 Issuance
- Other
  - OPT
  - CPT
  - EVs, F-1s not able to depart
  - Transfer students
U.S. Embassy and Consulate Closures

- Routine visa services at all U.S. Embassies and Consulates are still suspended.
- Students within 60 days of the start date on their I-20 may be able to request an expedited appointment.
- Request may or may not be successful.
- Visa may not be issued if travel ban is still in place.
Travel Bans

These bans apply to foreign nationals who were physically present in one of these countries during the past 14 days.

- China (does not include Hong Kong or Macau)
- Iran
- European Schengen Area
  - Note: the European Schengen area includes 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.
- Ireland
- United Kingdom
- Brazil

It is not known when these travel restrictions will be removed.
Immigration Updates: Concerning Proposals

- Proclamations
  - Affiliations with military influenced organizations in China

- Proposals
  - Measures to address high unemployment by suspending entry of certain visa types
  - May 7th letter from Senators
  - STEM Majors from China
  - OPT elimination
  - D/S
May 29 Presidential Proclamation

- Chinese students and scholars who studied at, are employed by, or are funded by organizations influenced by the military cannot enter the U.S. on F or J visas
- Does not affect undergraduate students
- Does not affect graduate students or scholars currently in the U.S., although State Dept could revoke visas, preventing re-entry.
Proposals

○ Potential presidential proclamation suspending entry on H-1B and some J-1 visas for 120 - 180 days
○ May 7th letter from Senators Cotton, Cruz, Grassley, Hawley urging suspension of “guest worker” visas for 60 days/H-1B/OPT for a year
○ Possibility of executive action that could curtail OPT. On-going OPT lawsuit also continues
○ Secure Campus Act proposal: visas would not be issued to Chinese nationals for graduate or post-graduate studies in STEM fields
○ Proposed rule to eliminate "duration of status" for F, J. Would mean extensions of stay through USCIS, not IC
Immigration Updates: Local considerations

● “Public health informed” fall semester
  ● In person semester arrival challenges
  ● Remote learning opportunities
  ● Late arrivals
    ○ Mid semester deferrals
    ○ CPT/OPT eligibility

● Graduate Student Considerations
Immigration Updates: IC Resources

- I-20/DS-2019 issuance ongoing
- Homepage and COVID page
  - Statements of Support
- International Center Summer Orientation
- Virtual Pre-departure Orientation - Taiwan: recommended for new students from Taiwan.
- Virtual Pre-departure Orientation - China: recommended for new students from P.R.China.
- Virtual Pre-departure Orientation for New International Students: open to all new international students
- Virtual programming and chats: Ask Me!
Immigration Updates: Scholars & Employees

- J-1 Scholar updates
- Green Card updates
  - 4/22/2020 Executive Order has limited impact
- H-1B/ TN updates
  - LCA posting process updated
  - Remote work
  - Premium Processing
  - Processing times
  - Eligibility for (voluntary) furlough and/or reduction in FTE
  - Travel to/from Canada to obtain/extend TN status remains an option
  - Potential Executive Order
- Post-docs
  - Continued availability of H-1B and other statuses
Wrap-up and Resources

- Thank you for coming!
- https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/
- https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/covid-19-updates

A resource for COVID and other Travel info: