

April 3, 2025

Dear Penn State community,

We want you to know that international students, scholars, and faculty at Penn State are valued members of our campus community. Penn State is committed to supporting and assisting you. Recently, some incidents have occurred around the country that are concerning to many in our community, particularly our international students, faculty and staff. The University is aware that some international students have had their lawful status in the U.S. terminated. We want to remind you of the guidance and resources that are currently available to you while we continue to monitor evolving federal actions and policies related to immigration and international travel, particularly as they pertain to the Penn State community.

Please take a few moments to review the guidance below, and or reach out to the [International Student and Scholar Advising Office in Penn State Global](#) at 814-865-7681.

Sincerely,

Sabine Klahr
Interim Vice Provost
Penn State Global

BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION

Students, Scholars, and Faculty on University Sponsored Visas

International Student & Scholar Advising (ISSA) in Penn State Global highly recommends that you keep documentation regarding your visa status up-to-date and always carry copies of proof of status, such as a photocopy or scan/digital copy of your primary immigration documents. ISSA provides [guidance](#), which is updated periodically, about which documents you should carry based on your visa type.

As a reminder, for students on F-1 or J-1 student visa status, your documents would include:

- Your main passport page
- Your current I-94 Record
- Your most recent I-20/DS-2019
- Your most recent visa
- It may also be helpful to have a copy of your class schedule and a copy of the [AILA's Know Your Rights document](#).

Federal Law Enforcement Efforts

Our Penn State campuses are comprised of public and private spaces. Federal law enforcement officers can enter public spaces on our campuses without permission; however, they cannot enter private spaces, such as residence halls, locked offices, or other secured University spaces, without a valid judicial warrant. Please note that Penn State classrooms are not private spaces.

If you are approached by ICE or other federal law enforcement officers on campus, please alert University Police at 814-863-1111. You should remain calm and ask for identification. If the officer produces identification and a signed warrant, you must comply with their orders. You do, however, have the right to remain silent. Bystanders should not attempt to interfere with the actions of the federal law enforcement officers.

[A quick reference guide for engaging with federal law enforcement officers](#) is available online.

Travel Guidance

Last week, the U.S. Secretary of State announced that the Department of State is [revoking visas](#), including F-1 and J-1 visas of individuals who have criminal records or otherwise fail to adhere to court orders. In addition, in January, the President issued an [Executive Order](#) asking agencies to identify countries for which full or partial suspension of new visas may be appropriate and existing visas should be suspended or revoked.

Those making international travel plans should closely monitor these and any future developments and use caution when deciding when to travel outside of the U.S. Rules regarding travel may change suddenly and without warning.

If you are travelling outside the U.S., please review travel information for your visa type on the [Penn State Global website](#).

If you will be traveling within the United States – driving on major highways, or riding on buses, trains, or planes – you should carry your key documents documenting your legal status in the U.S.

Additional Resources

For more information, Penn State Global maintains a [web page with relevant information](#).

If you are on a visa sponsored by Penn State and have any questions about your immigration status, please don't hesitate to contact International Student & Scholar Advising. If you are not in the U.S. on a Penn State sponsored visa or if you have specific questions or concerns related to your immigration status, you may also contact an [immigration attorney](#), including (if you are a student) [Student Legal Services](#).

Penn State sponsored students, scholars, and faculty are encouraged to stay connected with ISSA. They are always available to assist and connect you with resources for support.

When Penn State Global becomes aware that a student has had their lawful status in the U.S. terminated, a staff member reaches out directly to the student to make them aware of the situation, if they aren't already. Penn State also has other support teams in place who are available to you, including:

- [International Student and Scholar Services](#)
- [University Community Updates Regarding Executive Actions](#)
- [Penn State Law Center for Immigrants' Rights Clinic—2025 Resources](#)
- [Student Care & Advocacy](#)
- [Counseling & Psychological Services](#)
- [Student Legal Services](#)