

Reference Guide: Interacting With Federal Law Enforcement Authorities on Campuses and Travel Information for International Students, Faculty and Staff

Penn State is committed to supporting and assisting its international students, faculty and staff. This document is intended to provide guidance and resources for international members of our community regarding interacting with federal law enforcement authorities and traveling inside and outside of the United States.

- 1. If you become aware of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity on campus:**
 - **Contact University Police and Public Safety** immediately at **814-863-1111**.
 - If ICE or other federal officers approach you, you **have the right to remain silent** and are not required to answer questions about your immigration status.
 - ICE officers can enter **public spaces** on our campuses without permission; however, they **cannot enter private spaces**, such as residence halls, without a **valid judicial warrant**. **Classrooms are not private spaces**.
- 2. What should I do if ICE or other federal law enforcement officials come to my campus location?**
 - **Stay calm** to prevent escalation.
 - **Request identification and documentation.**
 - Politely ask for the officer's **name, identification number, and agency affiliation**.
 - **Direct the officer to University Police.** While you are waiting for University Police, if the officer produces identification and a signed warrant, you must comply with their orders.
 - Inform them that Penn State University Police are responsible for coordinating all law enforcement actions on campus.
 - University Police will respond and communicate directly with the agent.
- 3. What if ICE or other federal agents approach me off campus or at my home?**
 - Please review the [AILA Know Your Rights](#) resource for more information.
- 4. What if ICE or other federal agents ask me for information about students or employees?**
 - Student information is protected under **FERPA** and cannot be disclosed without legal guidance.

- If approached, **do not provide any information** and refer the agent to **Penn State's Office of General Counsel**.
- Inform the agent that you are consulting with appropriate university personnel and have contacted **University Police at 814-863-1111**.

5. What documents should international students and scholars carry?

- It is recommended that international students and scholars carry or have electronic copies of:
 - The **biographic page** of their passport.
 - Their **most recent I-94 admission record** ([Available here](#)). If you changed or extended your status via an application or petition with USCIS (i.e. I-539 or I-129), your most recent I-94 is on the bottom of your approval notice.
 - A copy of their **Form I-20 (F-1 students) or DS-2019 (J-1 students)**.
 - A copy of your most recent **visa stamp**.

6. Who should I contact for assistance or questions?

- **For assistance and support**, if you are on a Penn State sponsored visa, reach out to **Penn State Global**, the **International Faculty and Scholar Advising Office**, and/or if you are a student, you can reach out to **Student Legal Services at 814-867-4388**.
- **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](#).

***** Please remember that if you are in the U.S. on a visitor visa, one of the conditions of your visa is that you follow all federal, state, and local laws, including any court orders and paying any fines or penalties you may incur.**

Additional Resources:

- [University Police & Public Safety](#)
- [Student Legal Services](#)
- [Penn State Global](#)

Know Your Rights Resources:

- [Penn State Law Resources](#)
- [Know Your Rights Guide \(2025 Update\)](#)