Information about the Immigration Executive Order

On Friday, January 27, US President Donald Trump issued an executive order (EO) to make changes to the immigration policy regarding entry into the US. The EO suspends entry into the US for foreign nationals from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen for 90 days, through April 27, 2017 and suspends the nonimmigrant visa interview waiver program.

On Friday, February 3, a Seattle federal judge issued a temporary restraining order halting the ban nationwide. On Tuesday, February 7, the US Court of Appeals for the 9th circuit heard arguments from the Justice Department lawyers in favor of lifting the ban on President Trump’s EO. The lawyers from Seattle and Minnesota also had a chance to present their cases in favor of keeping the ban on the EO. On Thursday, February 9, the US Court of Appeals for the 9th circuit ruled to reject the bid to reinstate the immigration executive order while courts continue to consider its lawfulness.

On Monday, March 6, President Trump has signed a revised executive order regarding travel. The revised 90 day ban goes into effect March 16, 2017 through June 14, 2017 and will suspend the entry of nationals of Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

On Wednesday, March 16, the US District Court in Hawaii issued a temporary restraining order that blocked President Trump’s latest version of the immigration ban prohibiting the entry of people from six Muslim-majority countries from taking effect nationwide. On Thursday, March 17 another federal judge in Maryland issued a similar ruling that also blocked the ban on entry for people from the six countries.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who was going to be affected by the executive order?
A: Nationals and citizens from the six restricted countries unless they qualified for exemption or are granted a waiver. It did not include people who have traveled to one of the listed countries. It also suspended admission of refugees from any country, including Syria, for 120 days starting March 6.

Q: Were there any exemptions to the ban?
A: Green card holders, holders of a valid US visa (even if they have not yet used it) and refugees who have already been admitted and whose travel has been formally scheduled by the State Department were exempt and could travel internationally provided all their documentation is in order.
Recommendations from the CIP

- **Individuals with an expired visa or a visa that will expire during an international trip are advised against international travel and should work on renewing their visa.**

- **Expect to be questioned more when you are trying to re-enter the US if you are traveling in the future.** Border Patrol officers may request to see your social media or emails so be mindful of what you are posting. If traveling, carry all your important documents with you and additional proof of your student status (your transcript, your course schedule, or letter of admission to K). The CIP can provide additional documentation to prove that you are a student, i.e. letters affirming your student status signed by Alayna or Margaret.

- **Read the Know Your Rights at the Border section at the bottom of this page.**

- **Carry a paper copy of important phone numbers and emails in case you need them in an adverse event.**

- **If for some reason you are stopped at a border please call Alayna (269-251-8876) Margaret (269-267-5800) for information on what to do.**

**Links to More Information**

If you want more details about the executive order, click on the following links:

- The Complete Hawaiian Court Decision - [https://cdn.pacermonitor.com/pdfservlet/P52F2SY/69100910/State_of_Hawaii_v_Trump__hidce-17-00050_0219.0.pdf](https://cdn.pacermonitor.com/pdfservlet/P52F2SY/69100910/State_of_Hawaii_v_Trump__hidce-17-00050_0219.0.pdf)

- Fact Sheet: Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry To The United States - [https://www.dhs.gov/news/2017/03/06/fact-sheet-protecting-nation-foreign-terrorist-entry-united-states](https://www.dhs.gov/news/2017/03/06/fact-sheet-protecting-nation-foreign-terrorist-entry-united-states)


- NAFSA Travel Advisory for Nationals of Certain Countries Pursuant to Executive Orders - [https://www.nafsa.org/Professional_Resources/Browse_by_Interest/International_Students_and_Scholars/Travel_Advisory_for_Nationals_of_Certain_Countries_Pursuant_to_Executive_Orders/](https://www.nafsa.org/Professional_Resources/Browse_by_Interest/International_Students_and_Scholars/Travel_Advisory_for_Nationals_of_Certain_Countries_Pursuant_to_Executive_Orders/)

**Know Your Rights at the Border**

**Q: Can federal agents search my devices at the border?**

**A:** The Supreme Court decided in 1976 and 2004 that people have fewer claims to their Fourth Amendment privacy rights granted by the Constitution when entering the country, because the government has to protect its borders. Therefore, federal agents have broad authority to search citizens and visitors alike and that can include flipping through your phone, computer, and any other electronic devices you have with you. They can even make a copy of it to have forensic experts analyze its contents off-site but they have to delete it if the data's not "necessary for law enforcement purposes."

**Q: Can I say no? Should I ask for a lawyer?**

**A:** You can say no but border agents can then make your life difficult. Agents can detain you — courts are divided on how long is too long — take your phone and try to unlock it on site, and even take your phone and send to experts to unlock it. If you are a citizen or legal permanent resident, a green-card holder, they have to let you back into the country eventually. If you are not a citizen, border agents can refuse your entry to the US. If you decline to unlock your phone and agents give you a hard time, you can ask for a lawyer, though you would have to pay for their services yourself. The government is not required to provide you with one for free if you ask.

**Q: How can I protect my data?**

**A:** Travel only with the data that you need. That may mean using separate phones or laptops for traveling. Second, consider using encryption services. The **Electronic Frontier Foundation** and **Wired** both have exhaustive guides to keep hackers from accessing your data. Third, turn your devices completely off before going through customs. This is when the encryption services are at their strongest.

**Note: Please be aware that information is continually changing, so check the news and the International Student Moodle Page frequently and the CIP news website. Contact the CIP if you have any questions.**