CONSIDERATIONS FOR INVITING INTERNATIONAL RESEARCHERS OUTSIDE OF THE U.S. TO UCSD:
SUMMARY OF IMMIGRATION TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS 9/23/2021

VISA APPOINTMENT BACKLOGS

1) The pandemic continues to severely affect the ability of consulates to issue visas around the world
2) US citizen services and immigrant/fiancée visas are prioritized over nonimmigrant visas; urgent or mission critical (COVID) nonimmigrant visas prioritized over student/exchange visitor visas
3) Resumption of services dependent upon local conditions—medical infrastructure, COVID cases, emergency response capabilities, local government restrictions—LOCAL CONDITIONS CAN CHANGE QUICKLY
4) Interview waiver eligibility expanded to applicants applying in the same nonimmigrant category with visas expired within 48 months (was 24 months)
5) In all cases, check with your local consulate for current operating status! See also Visa appointment wait times

COVID GEOGRAPHIC TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

1) COVID-19 geographic restrictions still in place; scholars must spend 14 days outside any of these areas prior to attempting entry to the U.S.
2) National interest exceptions exist for “students and academics” of these areas for academic programs beginning after August 1, 2021; validity periods of NIEs have been extended to one year
   a. J-1 students and scholars must apply at their local U.S. consulate, following its established protocol (will likely require letter from PI substantiating the national interest)
   b. F-1 students have automatic exception; do not need to apply at consulate
3) Sometime in early November geographic restrictions will be replaced by required proof of vaccination and negative COVID test (White House briefing 9/20/2021; policy yet to be published)

UC SYSTEM GUIDANCE

1) The University of California has issued new travel guidance as of March 12, 2021, instructing all travelers to follow CDC guidance before, during, and upon return from travel.
2) CDC Recommendations differ between fully vaccinated and unvaccinated persons; see quick review

U.S. DEPT OF STATE SUMMARY OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY OTHER COUNTRIES
For more information: INTERNATIONAL FACULTY & SCHOLARS OFFICE (IFSO) IMMIGRATION NEWS
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