

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 CHINA, IRAN, EUROPE*, BRAZIL, SOUTH AFRICA, INDIA

*[Schengen countries, UK, Ireland](#)

- 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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