RESPONSE TO EXECUTIVE ORDER FROM KUMC OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

“International educational exchange is the most significant current project designed to continue the process of humanizing mankind to the point, we would hope, that men can learn to live in peace—eventually even to cooperate in constructive activities rather than compete in a mindless contest of mutual destruction....We must try to expand the boundaries of human wisdom, empathy and perception, and there is no way of doing that except through education.” – J. William Fulbright

On behalf of KUMC and the Office of International Programs, I am writing today to reiterate the message from Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little in her email to the University of Kansas community as well as the email from KUMC senior leadership, Dr. Girod and the deans of our three schools that were sent in response to the executive order entitled “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States.”

Many of you are familiar with our office and understand the unique responsibility we have representing you, the university and the U.S. Government. We are tasked with ensuring compliance, while simultaneously advocating for you and helping you understand your immigration status. The world of immigration is complicated, and as we know from this week, the complexity has increased.

We believe in the value you bring to our institution, community and city, and we want to ensure a positive experience for you while you are here. Our main priority is to provide you with accurate, synthesized information, to advise you on your immigration options that enable you to pursue your personal, educational and professional goals, and to support you and assuage your concerns.

To this end, I have compiled some information from Judy Bordeau, our university approved immigration attorney, as well as information from NAFSA, the professional organization for international educators:

- An annotated version of the executive order can be found [here](#).
- To summarize, on January 27, 2017, President Trump signed an executive order suspending entry and visa issuance for at least 90 days for citizens of the following countries: Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. Citizens from these countries who are presently studying or working in the United States absolutely should not leave and seek re-entry to the U.S. at this time. Other countries could be added to the list in upcoming days.

- In addition, the [Visa Interview Waiver Program](#) has been suspended for all countries, and many anticipate that 221g administrative reviews for security clearances will increase. This means that individuals travelling abroad risk delays in obtaining visa stamps from U.S. consulates, if a new visa stamp is required for re-entry to the United States. Note that 221g administrative review can occur for visa applicants from any country (including traditional U.S. allies); however, it is expected for citizens of countries the U.S. has determined are state sponsors of terrorism, and is also relatively common for citizens from the five “non-proliferation export control countries,” including China, India, Israel, Pakistan and Russia, particularly if those individuals engage in work or research on the Technology Alert List. The Technology Alert List (TAL) is a list of technologies that the U.S. federal government has determined are “sensitive,” particularly technologies that may be used in weapons or have “dual use” in both civilian and military applications. While the TAL is not new, and individuals have always faced the risk of 221g security clearances, delays may be more common in the current environment.
RESPONSE TO EXECUTIVE ORDER FROM KUMC OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

In light of the executive order, individuals travelling who need to apply for a visa stamp before returning to the United States are at risk of delays. Individuals with unexpired visa stamps are at a lower risk; however, individuals with valid visas from Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen absolutely should not travel, and individuals from other countries in the Middle East could also be delayed upon re-entry to the U.S. Individuals from the five “non-proliferation export control countries” with unexpired visas may also be at higher risks of questions upon re-entry than in the past.

Based on this information, we strongly discourage all internationals – faculty, staff, students, residents, researchers and exchange visitors – against traveling outside of the U.S. at this time due to the heightened risk of being detained upon reentry, of being denied entry and of being delayed during the visa renewal process. Ultimately, the decision to travel internationally is yours. We understand that there may be extenuating circumstances or personal reasons that may take precedence over our advice to not travel. If you feel that you must travel, despite our advice, you should meet with us for an advising appointment prior to your departure.

Once the entry bar provisions of the executive order are understood, one of the next things you might ask is whether the executive order will also somehow be applied during the 90 days of the entry ban to agency adjudications of immigration benefits other than visas or entry. These benefits might include, for example, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) benefits like applications for practical training, H-1B and L-140 petitions, changes of status, etc., or benefits or adjudications done by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) or the Department of State’s exchange visitor program offices.

NAFSA frequently asked questions states: “NAFSA has received no information from any agency regarding a “hold” on their adjudication of benefits in connection with the executive order. On January 31, 2017, NAFSA inquired directly with USCIS headquarters, and is also inquiring with SEVP and the Department of State’s Office of Private Sector Exchange. Until we hear otherwise from the agencies, we suggest that schools, students, and scholars continue to apply for benefits, comply with all filing deadlines, and respond to any RFE (Request for Evidence) received from an agency as usual. Schools and their responsible officials (DSOs, ROs, individuals with signature authority for employment-based petitions) should continue to grant, certify, or recommend benefits that are within their regulatory authority to grant or recommend, and to report, respond, and update systems such as SEVIS as usual.”

Additional resources:
- http://www.kumc.edu/international-programs/emergency-contact.html

We in OIP are available to answer your questions and advise you. Please also refer to our website Office of International Programs for updates and additional information as well as look for our emails.

Kimberly Connelly Holland, M.A.T., Senior International Officer, PDSO & ARO, FULLBRIGHT Advisor | Office of International Programs | 9007 WESCOE Academic Affairs | University of Kansas Medical Center | 3901 Rainbow Blvd. | Mail Stop 3033 | Kansas City, KS 66160 | Phone: 913.588.1480 | Fax: 913.588.1492 | kconnelly@kumc.edu | CELL: 816.668.6414

PHISHING EMAILS

Do not respond to a phishing scam. Phishing scams are emails that attempt to trick you into surrendering your username and password, or other sensitive personal information. These emails take many forms. Some ask you to reply to the email and include your username and password. Others may ask you to follow a link that leads to a webpage where you are asked to fill out your credentials. KUMC staff will never ask for your password. Forward these emails as attachments to Information Security kumc-security@kumc.edu

Do not open an unexpected or suspicious attachment. Malware is often sent as an attachment from compromised email accounts. Antivirus software will not protect your computer completely because new forms of malware are developed constantly. Be cautious with every email message that contains an attachment, especially if you weren’t expecting it.


Additional information regarding KUMC’s technology-related standards and guidelines is available at: http://www.kumc.edu/information-resources/standards-and-guidelines.html

TAX WORKSHOPS

The Office of International Programs is sponsoring two FREE tax workshops with KU Lawrence Legal Services Department. The workshops will be held in G027 Dykes Library.

Tuesday, March 28th: 12 - 4 p.m.

OR

Tuesday, April 11th: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Questions? Contact Stacie Rader srader@kumc.edu

CULTURE HOUR

Don’t forget to join us for our weekly Culture Hour!

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 1-28, 2017
Daily Events celebrating Black History Month

Thursday, February 16, 2017
KC Refugee Immigrant Forum
Beller Conference Center 5-7 p.m.

Tuesday, February 21
Clinical Culture & Diversity Series
Constructing Bridges Through Cultural Humility: Engaging in Meaningful Dialogue
Presented by Wendi Willis El-Amin, MD
SON Auditorium 12-1 p.m. Lunch Provided

Tuesday, February 28
Black History Month Research Day
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
SON B018