

From: [University Broadcast](#)
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Subject: Department of Homeland Security proposed rule comment period
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On Sept. 25, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security published a [proposed regulation](#) to set new limits on the length of time an individual on an F1 visa or J1 visa (e.g., international student, scholar, researcher or resident) may stay in the United States. This proposed rule is subject to public comment and possible change before it could become final.

Currently, individuals admitted to the U.S. on these visas can stay indefinitely as long as they abide by the established immigration rules and maintain status. If finalized as is, the proposed regulation would bring significant changes to the current immigration rules, requiring these visa holders to file extensions of stay applications through the U.S. government in order to continue in their programs. The published processing time for such an extension application would range from five to 19 months. Currently, extensions are managed by designated school officials who have access to SEVIS, the government database in which all information on the F1 and J1 populations is stored.

KU Medical Center leaders have serious concerns about this proposed regulation and are in the process of collecting institutional data and drafting a comprehensive comment letter in collaboration with leaders on the Lawrence campus. We also are connecting with colleagues at higher education institutions and associations across the state and nation to voice our shared concerns regarding the proposed rule and to strongly express how valuable the contributions of our international students, scholars, researchers and residents are to our nation, our states and our institutions.

We encourage each member of the KU Medical Center community, including those in our international community, to be active participants in this federal process. **Anyone affected by or concerned about the proposed rule can submit a public comment through the Federal Register until Monday, Oct. 26.**

[Federal Register Public Comment Link](#)

Posting your comments and questions on the Federal Register site is a critical part of this process. This proposed regulation is not yet final, and U.S. law requires a 30-day opportunity for people to pose their questions and share their thoughts and concerns. The process also requires that the federal government review and respond fully to the submissions received by the deadline. This often brings about significant changes to the proposed regulations, and occasionally leads to complete withdrawal.

Your stories are also important as they bring to light the human beings the proposed regulation would impact. These narratives and the questions that stem from them are incredibly important.

To assist with this effort, the Office of International Programs (OIP) is drafting some potential talking points. OIP recommends comments and questions submitted through the Federal Registrar be specific and address points written in the proposal. To better understand some of the complexities of the proposal and opinions related to the proposal, please refer to [the statement issued by the](#)

[Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates](#) or review one of a number of [articles in the news media](#).

There are additional resources to learn more about this issue, including an [open discussion](#) on Tuesday, Oct. 13, hosted by NAFSA: Association of International Educators, which is the world's largest nonprofit association dedicated to international education and exchange.

OIP also offers open forum zoom sessions every Tuesday and will organize an upcoming Community Conversation on this topic. Contact Irina Aris at jaris@kumc.edu for more information.

If you have questions or would like additional information about the proposed rule, please contact Kimberly Connelly at kconnelly@kumc.edu or 816-668-6414.

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