

From: [Irina Aris](#)
Cc: [Kimberly Connelly](#); [Stacie Rader](#); [Alexa Smith](#); [Linda Sanga](#); [Irina Aris](#)
Subject: OIP IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: Emerging Development re H-1B & H-4 Visa Appointments Cancelled/Rescheduled Causing Significant Delays
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We would like to inform our KUMC community of an emerging development that is impacting H-1B and H-4 visa stamp applicants. In response to the U.S. Department of State’s initiative to increase social media vetting, U.S. consulates have been cancelling visa stamp appointments that were scheduled for H-1B and H-4 visa holders on December 15 and after. U.S. consulates have been rescheduling these appointments to as early as March 2026 with some appointments being moved to June 2026.

Reports of these visa appointment cancellations and rescheduling have been coming primarily from U.S. consulates in India. While we are monitoring this development and whether similar cancellations will be occurring in other countries, we are updating our travel recommendations.

Any visa holder, who is planning to travel internationally and will need to obtain a new visa stamp, would be in a high-risk travel assessment category, and should reconsider their travel plans due to potential visa appointment cancellation and delays. While the development has been centered on H-1B and H-4 visa holders obtaining visa stamps in India, due to the continuously evolving situation and current environment, **it is recommended to avoid any international travel under any visa category when you need to obtain a valid visa stamp to be able to reenter the United States.**

Below is a **summary of this development** and what to be aware of. If you have any questions or concerns, **please direct them to the Office of International Programs ([Kimberly Connelly](#) and [Irina Aris](#))**. We kindly ask to please NOT email university approved immigration attorneys directly about this matter or travel inquiries prior to contacting OIP due to retention agreement in place.

Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● H-1B & H-4 visa stamp appointments being cancelled at U.S. consulates in India. ● Appointments being rescheduled for a later time (as early as March 2026 and as late as June 2026) ● Due to the volume of applicants impacted, expedite/emergency appointment options may not be available or considered
Reason for Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● U.S. Department of State implementing expanded screenings of H-1B & H-4 visa holders (similar to F-1 and J-1 visa holders) on online and social media presence. ● Reason for cancellation of appointments as stated by the U.S. consulates is due to the need of reducing “daily interview capacity” to allow for these expanded vetting processes. ● Department of State News Announcement Link
Countries Impacted by Appointment Cancellations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anticipated that this could expand to other countries as well due to broader implementation of H-1B/H-4 social media vetting processes
Department of State Instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “all applicants for H-1B and their dependents (H-4), F, M, and J nonimmigrant visas are instructed to adjust the privacy settings on all of their social media

Regarding Vetting/ Appointments	<p>profiles to ‘public.’”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants who cannot attend the newly rescheduled appointment can reschedule online but will only have one opportunity to do this
Impact on International Travel Assessment and Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previously emailed guidance on the Presidential Proclamation and Travel updated below. Any H-1B & H-4 visa holder who planned international travel and needed to obtain a new visa stamp are now in the high-risk category. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation is to postpone or avoid international travel if you currently do not have a valid visa stamp
OIP Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While the development has been centered on H-1B & H-4 visa holders obtaining visa stamps in India, due to the continuously evolving situation and current environment, it is recommended to avoid any international travel on any visa category when you need to obtain a valid visa stamp to be able to reenter the United States.
Be Aware of Previous OIP Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel Ban Details OIP IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT: USCIS Update on Presidential Proclamation on H-1B's and \$100,000 Fee OIP IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT: USCIS Update on Presidential Proclamation on H-1B's Chart NEW DEVELOPMENT - Important Update from OIP: Proclamation on H-1B Visa Restrictions and \$100,000 Fee Important Update from OIP: Proclamation on H-1B Visa Restrictions and \$100,000 Fee Important Update from OIP for All Non-Immigrant Visa Holders Regarding Obtaining a New Visa Stamp and Visa Applications
Contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please contact OIP for any questions, concerns, or clarifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kimberly Connelly, kconnelly@kumc.edu, 816-668-6414 Irina Aris, iaris@kumc.edu, 816-698-2232 We kindly ask to please NOT email university approved immigration attorneys directly about travel inquiries prior to contacting OIP due to retention agreement in place.

H-1B SPONSORSHIP WITH USCIS & TRAVEL		
H-1B CASE TYPE/SITUATION	\$100,000 FEE	INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL RISK
Extension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently in U.S. on H-1B with KUMC needing to extend H-1B status KUMC petitioning with the USCIS an 	Fee DOES NOT Apply	

EXTENSION of H-1B		Valid H-1B Visa Stamp: Low Risk
Amendment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently in U.S. on H-1B with KUMC but will have material/significant changes in position/job • KUMC requesting with the USCIS an AMENDMENT of H-1B 	Fee DOES NOT Apply	New/Renewed H-1B Visa Stamp Needed: High Risk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fee does not apply • Visa stamp appointment cancellations & delays
COE-Change of Employer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently in U.S. on H-1B with another employer • KUMC petitioning with the USCIS a CHANGE OF EMPLOYER of H-1B 	Fee DOES NOT Apply	
COS-Change of Status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently in U.S. on another visa status (i.e., F-1, J-1, H-4, J-2, etc.) • KUMC petitioning with the USCIS within the U.S. a CHANGE STATUS to H-1B 	Fee DOES NOT Apply	New H-1B Visa Stamp Needed: High Risk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fee does not apply • Visa stamp appointment cancellations & delays
Consular/Port of Entry (POE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently outside of the U.S. who will be seeking initial entry on the H-1B • KUMC petitioning with the USCIS a CONSULAR/POE PROCESSING H-1B • Prospective H-1B employee then applies for H-1B visa at U.S. Embassy/Consulate or U.S. Customs and Border Protection 	Fee DOES Apply <i>***There is potential to apply for an exemption.</i>	New H-1B Visa Stamp Needed: High Risk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fee does apply • Visa stamp appointment cancellations & delays

Irina Aris, MPA | Associate Director, RO, DSO, TPL | [Office of International Programs](#), Delp 2093, Office of Academic and Student Affairs | **University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC)** | 3901 Rainbow Blvd. | Mail Stop 3033 | Kansas City, KS 66160 | **Phone/Text/WhatsApp: 816.698.2232** | Office Phone: 913.588.1480 | iaris@kumc.edu |

[Kimberly Connelly](#), M.A.T. | **KUMC Senior International Officer and Director** [Office of International Programs](#) | PDSO & ARO, FULBRIGHT Advisor | **CELL and WhatsApp 816.668.6414** | kconnelly@kumc.edu | Delp 2093 | **University of Kansas Medical Center** | 3901 Rainbow Blvd. | Mail Stop 3033 | Kansas City, KS 66160
[KUMC GSDP](#)