The Executive Order signed on January 27, 2017 has suspended entry into the United States for non-immigrants and immigrants who are nationals of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. The period of suspension is 90 days from the signing date.

The Office of International Affairs strongly cautions against travel outside the United States if you are a national of any of these countries.

The following questions and answers may help clarify information regarding the travel suspension. However, please seek the advice of an experienced immigration attorney if you are from one of the seven countries listed in the Executive Order and are considering travel outside the United States.

**Program extension and remaining in the United States as an active J-1**

**Q:** I am currently a J-1 scholar in the United States and I am from one of the seven countries. My program will be expiring soon. Can I still extend my program?  
**A:** Yes, you are welcome to extend your program. Please prepare the necessary documentation for extension and make an appointment with OIA at your earliest convenience.

**Q:** I am in J-1 status and I am from one of the seven countries. I am worried about my stay. What can I do?  
**A:** OIA has not received any information regarding J-1 scholars who are currently in the United States in a valid and active J-1 program. We do recommend that you maintain your program active at all times and if there is a need for you to extend, please do so in a timely manner.

**Outside of the United States and visa applications**

**Q:** I am a J-1 scholar from one of the seven countries and my dependents are currently not in the United States. Can my dependents travel to the United States?  
**A:** According to the Executive Order, entry into the United States has been suspended for 90 days from the date of the signing on January 27, 2017. Your family members should remain abroad and wait at least 90 days when additional guidelines could be issued. For more specific information, please review the NAFSA Travel Advisory.

**Q:** I am a J-1 Scholar from one of the seven countries and I am scheduled to attend the visa appointment abroad in order to participate in the J-1 program with Ohio State. What should I do?  
**A:** The U.S. Department of State cautions all individuals from the seven countries who are seeking visa appointments as follows: “If you are a citizen of one of these countries, please do not schedule a visa appointment or pay any visa fees at this time. If you already have an appointment scheduled, please DO NOT ATTEND. You will not be permitted entry to the Embassy/Consulate. We will announce any other changes affecting travelers to the United States as soon as that information is available.”

**Q:** My department has invited a J-1 scholar from one of the seven countries to come to Ohio State with a start date of March 1. Will the scholar be able to come to Ohio State?
A: At this time, OIA advises the department to amend the dates at least 90 to 120 days from January 27, 2017, the date the Executive Order was signed.

Travel

Q: I am a J-1 scholar from one of the seven countries and I have international conferences to attend in the near future. Can I still attend?
A: Until further guidance from the U.S. government is received, OIA strongly cautions against travel outside the United States if you are a national of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria or Yemen.

Dual citizenship

Q: Does “from one of the seven countries” mean citizen, national or born in?
A: According to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection website, “Travelers are being treated according to the travel document they present.” Additional screening may occur and entry is not guaranteed.

Q: I am in J-1 status and I was born in one of the seven countries, but I am also a Canadian citizen. Can I travel to Canada, which is now my home country?
A: According to the Executive Order, any person who is considered to be from one of the seven countries is affected by the travel suspension. OIA recommends that scholars be cautious if they choose to travel internationally and consult the U.S. Customs and Border Protection website for further guidance.

The “from” concept

The following information is taken directly from the NAFSA website and provides sample scenarios to help interpret the language contained in the Executive Order.

- Example 1 - An individual born in Iran but who later became a British citizen (dual Iranian/British citizen) now seeks entry to the United States as an O-1 alien of extraordinary ability on her British passport. This individual would be seen as "from Iran," and will not be able to enter the United States because of the Executive Order entry ban.

- Example 2 - An Iraqi citizen who later became a British citizen (dual Iraqi/British citizen) became a U.S. lawful permanent resident several years ago. With a valid I-551 green card, she may be able to travel and reenter on the basis of the lawful permanent resident exception. However, it would be wise to seek the advice of an experienced immigration lawyer before traveling.

- Example 3 - An F-1 student from Iran was doing a semester of study abroad in France the day the Executive Order was signed. He has a valid F-1 visa and now wishes to return to the United States. He is subject to the Executive Order, though and now cannot reenter the United States.

- Example 4 - A professor in TN status under NAFTA who is a dual citizen of Canada and Yemen was in Canada the day the Executive Order was signed. She now wants to reenter the United States in TN status by car through a land port of entry. Although as a Canadian citizen she is exempt from the requirement to have a visa, as a Yemeni citizen she is not eligible to reenter the United States in TN status because of the Executive Order.

- Example 5 - An individual born in Syria who subsequently becomes a U.S. citizen, but retains his Syrian citizenship (i.e., dual citizenship with the United States and one of the seven countries). Since U.S. citizens are not aliens, and therefore cannot be classified as an immigrant or nonimmigrant, this individual would not be subject to the travel suspension, since it applies to immigrants and nonimmigrants.
Please note that these examples are to illustrate the principles of the "from" concept only. They are not legal advice. Also remember that the examples dealing with dual citizenship are based only on the U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s FAQs. Individuals with questions should discuss risks and strategies of their particular situation with an experienced immigration lawyer.

J-1 scholars who are not from Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Libya, Somalia or Yemen

Q: I am a J-1 scholar, but NOT from one of the seven countries listed in the Executive Order. Am I able to travel internationally?
A: Yes, you are permitted to travel internationally. There are always inherent risks in traveling abroad. It is highly important to verify that you have all of the necessary documentation for international travel before leaving the United States. Please review information pertaining to Travel on OIA’s website.

Q: I am a J-1 scholar, but NOT from one of the seven countries listed in the executive order. Should I be aware of any concerns if I want to extend my J-1 program?
A: Everyone is welcome to extend their J-1 program as it becomes necessary. For details, please visit the Extension page.

Q: Could other countries be added to the seven already listed in the Executive Order?
A: OIA highly recommends that everyone check the news before making travel plans as the list of countries may periodically change. According to NAFSA:

“Note that INA 217(a)(12) leaves open the designation of other countries, and so the list of 7 countries could be expanded on that basis too.

Remember that the source of the list of countries affected by the Executive Order is INA 217(a)(12), a provision added for another purpose that restricted entry under the Visa Waiver Program. INA 217(a)(12) also contains provisions related only to the Visa Waiver Program, which are unrelated to the Executive Order. For example, INA 217(a)(12) also restricts entry under the Visa Waiver Program (i.e., WB and WT status) for people who travel to the designated countries, even if they are not a citizen or national of those countries. The Executive Order's use of INA 217(a)(12) appears to be limited to identifying a list of countries, and does not appear to apply to a non-national of one of those countries who has only traveled to one of the countries. Anyone with questions should consult an experienced immigration lawyer.”