July 14, 2020: Consulates begin ‘phased resumption’ of visa services, depending on local conditions

The State Department has announced a "phased resumption of routine visa services." [1] The dates that visa services will resume in individual countries will depend on local conditions.

The International Center encourages you to review this announcement [1] and the accompanying FAQss, and to monitor the website of the embassy or consulate where you plan to apply for your visa. Remember that once visa issuance resumes there may be significant delays due to backlogs and new physical distancing protocols at embassies and consulates.

Although many travel restrictions [2] are still in effect, some webpages from consulates in the Schengen region, such as this example from Slovakia [3], indicate that students and J-1 scholars from the Schengen region can now apply for visas based on a “national interest exception.” It is imperative that you research your local consulate immediately and make an appointment if possible. We are looking for confirmation that Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will allow entry to the U.S. under these circumstances. CBP is a separate agency which determines admissibility to the U.S., and may not allow entry while the Presidential Proclamation is still in effect.

This announcement will be updated once we know more.

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