Visas and Travel for Students from the Schengen Area, United Kingdom, and Ireland

The Department of State has announced [1] that F-1 and J-1 students from the Schengen Area [2], the United Kingdom, and Ireland can now travel to the U.S. even though Presidential Proclamations (PPs) 9993 [3] (Schengen Area) and 9996 [4] (United Kingdom and Ireland) restricting entry remain in effect.

Students traveling from the Schengen Area, the UK, and Ireland who currently have valid F-1 visas, do not need to seek a national interest exception to travel. Students from the Schengen Area, the UK, and Ireland who need to apply for an F-1 visa can follow the normal visa application process.

Students from those areas who are applying for or traveling on a J-1 visa should contact the nearest embassy or consulate to initiate a national interest exception (NIE) request.

Review the information your embassy or consulate provides carefully since you may be required to fly into one of 15 specifically designated airports [5]. Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW) is one of the designated airports.

Please note that although the Department of State (the embassies and consulates) issues visas, a different agency, Customs and Border Protection (part of the Department of Homeland Security), makes the final determination of whether a person can be admitted to the United States, and their policies could vary. Since the Presidential Proclamations are still in effect, there may be some risk of being denied airplane boarding or admission at the US Port of Entry.

The International Center understands that these changing policies are confusing and frustrating. We share your concerns and will provide updated information as it becomes available. As always, the IC continues to value and support international students and scholars, to work with all areas of the university community to advance international education, and to advocate for immigration policies that best serve international students and scholars.

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[1] https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/visas-news/national-interest-exceptions-from-certain-travellers-from-the-schengen-area--k-and-ireland.html?fbclid=IwAR2HmTyrCawNcR308q3Hped77b_YtnXuG8EgW8u9U2utw7gQ8nYRGZwoQ