

Guidance for Possible Spring 2025 Changes
Queens College/CUNY
International Students and Scholars Office

This guidance is intended to inform and assist international students, faculty, and staff at Queens College. It is based on currently available information and may change as facts and policies change and is not meant as legal advice.

1. Based upon policy during the last Trump administration, a travel ban is possible soon after inauguration. The ban is likely to include citizens of the countries targeted previously: Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Myanmar, Sudan, Tanzania, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Syria, Venezuela, Yemen, and Somalia. International students and scholars from outside of these “areas of concern” are not likely to be affected by a travel ban or targeted visa suspension. People who are not citizens of these countries but are in transit through them to the U.S. are unlikely to be affected.
2. It is a good idea for international students, faculty, and staff from the above countries to be back in the U.S. in advance of the semester, which begins January 25, 2025. If this is not possible, communicate with an advisor about your travel plans and be prepared for delays.
3. Upon entering the United States, U.S. Customs and Border Protection may ask for more evidence of your connection to Queens College. For that reason, carry all of your documents (printed copy of the I-20, visa, and passport) ensure that they are up to date, and bring additional paperwork demonstrating your purpose at Queens College (evidence of funding and proof of enrollment).
4. Increased background checks at U.S. consulates abroad may lengthen visa processing times.
5. Only Congress can change visa categories such as asylum, Optional Practical Training, and green card categories. No change is expected in the short term. Consult an attorney or another trusted service provider if policies, regulations, or laws change.
6. President-elect Trump has indicated that mass deportations could begin soon after he takes office. These are likely to focus initially on people with final orders of deportation. Mass deportations are also likely to be challenged in the courts and to take longer than promised.

7. **Each international student and scholar immigration situation is different.** We encourage you to speak to your ISSO advisor if you have questions. Avoid making decisions based on social media, news reports and rumors that predict potential new policies and regulations. Rely on official documentation from the appropriate government agency and guidance from the ISSO.