IMMIGRATION BAN: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

On January 27, President Trump issued an Executive Order titled Protecting the Nation from Terrorist Attacks by Foreign Nationals. This executive order contains provisions that directly affect our student and scholar populations, along with the departments who host them. In particular, the order suspends visas, entry and immigration benefits to individuals from Libya, Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

Q: How many PSU students are from the banned countries named in the executive order?
A: There 64 students enrolled at PSU in winter term 2017 who are citizens of the banned countries, and another six who are scheduled to start in either March or June. The March students will not be able to enter the country because of the 90-day immigration ban, and the June students are likely to have a tough time entering the country. Most are graduate students. The remaining are undergraduates or students here for language training. Most are from Iran and Libya. Others are from Iraq, Yemen and Syria. Currently, there are no students from Sudan or Somalia on student visas.

Q: Are they in danger of deportation?
A: The executive order addresses non-U.S. citizens coming into the United States, not people who are already here. However, foreign students are advised to maintain their immigration status to avoid possible problems in being able to stay here.

Q: How do I maintain my immigration status?
A: PSU’s international students have either an F1 or J1 immigration status. F1 is a visa issued to any individual who is permitted to come into the United States to pursue a degree. A J1 visa is for those who are part of an exchange program. International students should check with International Student Services to learn how to maintain their status. Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to call the department at 503-725-4094 for more information.

Q: Aside from that, is there anything that could jeopardize my status?
A: Since the ban is effective for 90 days, expiring in late April, international students from the seven countries are advised not to travel outside the United States during that time. Once they leave the country, they’re likely to have trouble getting back in. It’s uncertain what the status of the ban will be after the 90-day expiration.

Q: What is PSU’s position on the immigration ban?
A: President Wim Wiewel issued a statement the day after the ban expressing dismay at President Trump’s executive order. He said, in part, “Young people from across the world have come to universities in the United States for decades because our higher education system is a global leader in providing educational opportunities. At PSU, our international students provide cultural and academic contributions that are integral to our mission and enrich the campus life of Oregon and domestic students. We have a responsibility to do all we can to make all of our students feel safe and supported regardless of their religion, national origin or immigration status.”

Q: Where can Muslim students turn for support?
A: The Muslim Student Association (MSAPSU) promotes Islamic awareness and creates an environment where Muslims can feel comfortable practicing their faith. For more information, contact the group at msapsu@pdx.edu
or find them on Facebook. Also visit the Multicultural Student Center. All PSU students, regardless of religion, can access the Quiet Prayer and Meditation Lounge in room O47 in Smith Memorial Student Union. It’s open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Q:** What can Muslim students do if they feel they are being targeted in any way?
**A:** Students experiencing discrimination should contact the Office of Global Diversity and Inclusion at 503-725-5919. If it involves another student, please contact the Dean of Student Life at 503-725-4422. In cases of threats or harassment, contact the Campus Public Safety Office at 503-725-4404 for emergencies, 503-725-4407 for non-emergencies.

**Q:** PSU has declared itself a sanctuary campus. What does that mean for students who may be afraid of deportation?
**A:** It means that campus safety officers will not enforce federal immigration laws. If a student interacts with a campus officer, their immigration status will not enter into the conversation. It means PSU will not facilitate or consent to immigration enforcement activities on campus unless legally compelled to do so or in the event of clear exigent circumstances such as an imminent risk to the health or safety of others. And it means PSU will not share confidential student information with the federal government unless required by court order.

**Q:** How is the immigration ban likely to affect recruiting international students?
**A:** PSU’s graduate admissions office says nothing has changed in PSU’s effort to recruit international students. The office is continuing to process applications, offer admissions and issue I-20 forms, which certify foreign students’ eligibility to study in the United States. “We will continue doing business as usual, because if something changes (in the travel ban) we want these students fully vetted so they can be admitted quickly,” says Kelly Doherty, director of graduate admissions.