

Global Connections at UNC Charlotte: Supporting International Student Success

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UNC Charlotte's international population

- Prospective international students who require visa sponsorship
- Currently enrolled international students on F-1 and J-1 visas
- Graduated international students employed in the U.S. on OPT (continuing student visa status from 1-3 years)
- International visiting scholars, international faculty & hiring departments (ISSO processes an average of 50 J-1/H-1B scholars a year to teach or conduct research)
- Faculty, staff, students and administrators across campus

UNC Charlotte's international population

Student Populations	Spring 2025
Degree seeking F1 & J1	<u>1602</u>
Exchange	8
Other visa types	161
ELTI	36
Total Enrolled Students:	1807
OPT students	1626
J-1 Research Scholars	62
H-1, O-1, E-3 Faculty	44
Active pathway to PR cases	10
Total Scholars:	116

What areas are the ISSO responsible for?

Compliance

- Fulfill federal reporting regulations required to host F and J students
- Submit reports to USCIS every 21 days re: changes to F-1 student enrollment data
- Create immigration documents to support F-1 and J-1 visa applications
- Liaise with departments hiring international faculty and maintain compliance with Department of Labor and Department of Homeland Security

Advocacy, education & communication

- Collaborate with campus partners to ensure positive experiences at UNC Charlotte
- Accessibility via in-person advising, phone advising, email advising
- Student programming

What kind of support does the ISSO offer?

- Immigration advising
- International Student Orientation
- International Coffee Hour
- Friendship & Culture Exchange
- Cultural Ambassador (student classroom panels)
- International Student Advisory Committee
- Immigration workshops
- Scholar programming
- And more...

UNC Charlotte Actions in Response to Executive Actions

- Assess & interpret
- Benchmark with peers at other institutions and professional organizations
- Collaborate with Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) & UNC System Office Immigration Attorney
- Begin to draft email communications & identify various audiences:
 - Enrolled F-1 & J-1 students (1,800)
 - Graduated F-1 students on OPT (1,600)
 - Current J-1 visiting scholars (50)
 - Current H-1B faculty members (50)
 - Appropriate campus partners
- Vet email communications with UComm & send emails
- Update website
- Meet/talk with students & scholars as needed
- Discuss details of each case internally among staff to identify next steps & reach out to OLA for support where needed

Legal Updates on Immigration Topics

Agenda

1. Visa Application: Enhanced Screening and Vetting
2. Travel Restrictions
3. SEVIS Terminations
4. Highlight: Harvard's ongoing litigation



Visa Application: Enhanced Screening & Vetting

- Announcement of Expanding Screening and Vetting for Visa Applicants
 - Applies to: F, M, and J visa applicants
 - The State Department uses all available information during visa screening and vetting to identify visa applicants who are inadmissible to the United States, including those who pose a threat to U.S. national security.
 - The new guidance includes comprehensive and thorough vetting of visa applicants' "entire online presence."
 - Note: The U.S. Department of State expects visa applicants to adjust the privacy settings on their social media accounts to "public."

Travel Restrictions

- Restricting the Entry of Foreign Nationals (Travel Restriction)
 - Presidential Proclamation - June 4, 2025 (effective date June 9, 2025)
 - 19 countries: divided into two categories
 - Category 1 - Full Suspension of Entry
 - Afghanistan, Burma, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen
 - Category 2 - Suspension of Entry for Nonimmigrants
 - Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan, Venezuela
- There are 9 exceptions to the guidance, including U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs) and dual nationals traveling on passport issued by a non-designated country

SEVIS Terminations

- Considerations when traveling internationally:
 - Upon entering the U.S., all travelers are subject to inspection by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).
 - Inspections conducted when arriving at a U.S. border (such as an international airport) can include personal belongings, documents, electronic devices, and social media.
 - In accordance with long-standing immigration law, international students and scholars must carry their immigration registration documents at all times.
- Students with questions should contact the ISSO before finalizing any travel plans.

SEVIS Terminations

- In March 2025, universities across the country reported a rise in unexpected SEVIS terminations involving international students and exchange visitors. These cases primarily involved individuals in F-1 (academic student) and J-1 (exchange visitor) status, both of which are monitored in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).
- The University has actively monitored SEVIS records and communicated directly with affected students about any updates.
- When a SEVIS record is reactivated, the University works closely with faculty and academic units to support the student's reintegration into their academic program.
- Students with travel-related questions should contact the International Student and Scholar Office for the most up-to-date guidance.
- Students can ensure their SEVIS records are updated once employed during their OPT time.

SEVIS Terminations/Visa Revocations: What We Know - National Trends

- According to NAFSA: Association of International Educators, 1,100 reports (distinct from cases) of F-1 and J-1 international students and scholars either having their visa revoked and/or their record in SEVIS terminated.
- Undergraduate, graduate, and Optional Practical Training (OPT)/STEM OPT students have been affected.
- No clear pattern or trend in terms of nationality of student; students from all regions are being impacted.
- All types of higher education institutions, from community colleges to R-1 research institutions, and in all regions of the United States.
- The cause given for the SEVIS record terminations has varied from "Otherwise Failing to Maintain Status" to "Other" with a reference to a criminal records check "and/or" a visa revocation.

Highlight: Harvard's Ongoing Litigation

- Harvard's Student Exchange and Visitor Program
 - May 22, 2025 - The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) decertified Harvard's Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP).
 - May 23, 2025 - Harvard sues DHS. A Federal judge grants a temporary restraining order to prevent enforcing DHS's decertification of the SEVP.
 - June 4, 2025 - Proclamation blocking students from entering the U.S. to attend Harvard.
 - June 5, 2025 - A Federal judge issued a temporary restraining order to prevent implementing the proclamation.
 - June 16, 2025 - The judge extended the temporary restraining order.
 - June 20, 2025 - Preliminary Injunction issued to block DHS's decertification of Harvard's SEVP.

I'm glad to be with you....even in the struggle



Even seemingly small 'glad to be with you' moments increase our capacity.



Student Experience Project research – instructors implemented a few “I’m glad to be with you in the learning struggle” strategies. Student performance increased. Instructor satisfaction increased.

Additional Resources

- [Immigration Changes FAQs](#), Inside UNC Charlotte
- [Alerts & Announcements](#), ISSO
- [Border Search of Electronic Devices at Ports of Entry](#), U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- [Presidential Proclamation - Restricting Entry](#), U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Questions?

