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Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 2:40 PM
Subject: [issp-partners] Update from U.S. Department of State & UVA Virtual Town Hall

Dear International Students and Scholars,

We are pleased to share the following update from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs on **National Interest Exceptions for Certain Travelers from China, Iran, Brazil, South Africa, the Schengen Area, the United Kingdom, and Ireland**.

This means that international students from those countries who receive a student visa for full-time enrollment at UVA for the fall semester beginning in August 2021 will be exempt from current restrictions on entry into the United States. At this time, there are no COVID-related restrictions on the entry of any full-time student with an F-1 visa to study at a U.S. university this fall.

The U.S. Department of State also announced that New National Interest Exceptions under Presidential Proclamations allows issuance of student visas for applicants who have been present in the People's Republic of China. We expect to see U.S. visa sections in China to begin interviewing students as early as next week. See full press release [here](#).

Although much progress has been made with regard to resumption of visa services, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect the capacity of U.S. embassies and consulates around the world to resume routine visa services. The U.S. Department of State is working to reduce backlog; however, visa applicants should continue to check the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate for the most up-to-date information about visa appointment availability.

We expect requirements for international travel, entry into the U.S., and arrival from abroad at UVA to remain dynamic in the coming months. These requirements will likely continue to include PCR testing pre- and post-travel and may eventually include vaccination. Please continue to monitor the following web sites for updates: [U.S. Department of State Travel](#), [CDC Traveler's Health](#), [UVA ISSP](#), and [UVA Be Safe](#).

UVA will hold a virtual Town Hall for current and new international students and scholars on **Thursday May 27, 2021 from 9:00 – 10:00 am EDT**. University officials will provide the most up-to-date information on plans for the fall semester. Student and scholar participants will be invited to share questions they have about visas, vaccinations, entry requirements, testing, housing, public health in the U.S. etc. You can expect instructions on registration for the Town Hall to be sent to you via email in mid-May.

We are excited that we can now look forward to welcoming new and returning international students to Grounds this fall.