



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Thursday, November 7, 2024

To CSU's International Student and Scholar Community,

Hello from the Office of International Programs! We have been contacted by several academic and student services departments indicating that they have had various international students and scholars expressing their concerns about the results of the recent presidential election on how it may impact their ability to travel and/or renew their visas.

At this point, we are unsure how it may or may not impact our international community as it is currently too soon to tell.

Regarding an expired visa, we want to provide clarification that you do not need a valid visa to remain in the United States.

- As long as you have a valid I-20 or DS-2019, and you are maintaining your legal status, it is not required to have a valid visa. The visa is an entry document only – which means that you only need a valid visa when you are entering the US. If you have no plans to travel, you will be fine remaining in the US – even if your visa has expired.
- If you are traveling and your visa will be valid at the time you are planning to re-enter the US, there is no need to renew it. The embassies do not have the capacity to renew visas for unexpired visas – we do not suggest that you go to the embassy to try and extend or “renew” a visa that has not expired (*unless you hold a J-1 visa that does not match the SEVIS number on your current DS-2019. If you are a J-1 visa holder, please contact our office if you are unsure whether your visa is valid.*)
- Regarding an expired visa – if your visa has expired and you are planning on traveling internationally, you will need to go to the US Embassy website and apply for a renewal of your visa.
 - Students and scholars often ask us if they can renew their visa inside the US; unfortunately, visa renewal can only be done outside of the US.
 - If you plan on traveling outside of the US over the winter break, you will need to plan accordingly by contacting the US Embassy in your home country and follow the procedures for renewing your visa / scheduling a visa appointment prior to leaving the US. (Depending on the requirements in your home country, you may or may not need to schedule an interview – many consulates only require that you drop your visa renewal application and documents off in a drop box and do not require an additional interview.)
- Finally, if you are planning on traveling outside of the US over winter break, please make sure you plan to return prior to January 20th – the spring semester begins January 21.

Please let us know if you have any questions, we are always happy to help!

Sincerely,

Greg M. Wymer
Director, International Student and Scholar Services