



# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON | TACOMA

Office of Global Affairs

**Email sent to UW Tacoma alumni engaged in post-completion/STEM OPT and currently enrolled UW Tacoma F-1 students on June 4, 2025**

**From:** [uwtiss@uw.edu](mailto:uwtiss@uw.edu)

**Subject:** Update from UW Tacoma International Student and Scholar Services

Dear [First Name]:

Greetings from UW Tacoma ISSS. We hope this message finds you well.

As the 2024-25 academic year comes to a close in a couple of weeks, we want to acknowledge that the last few months have been very challenging. We also want to recognize the amazing resilience, talent, commitment, curiosity, and innovation that our international students bring to UW Tacoma. We feel privileged to work with you every day. Regardless of where you come from, each of you contributes to global learning, dialogue, research, and innovation on our campus.

There have been various reports in the media about student visas. As you make summer plans, please remember to carefully assess the risks of traveling outside of the U.S. and potential hurdles of returning to the U.S., including travel restrictions and the visa renewal process.

We know the past few months have brought a changing immigration landscape which has resulted in unnecessary stress for you. **ISSS is here to provide support and resources to help you navigate these challenges.** Remember, anytime there are policy changes to F immigration regulations, ISSS will notify you directly and through our [Government Updates Webpage](#).

Below are a few updates regarding F visa announcements in the news.

## **Pause on Scheduling New F Visa Interviews**

Recent news reports stated that the U.S. Department of State issued a temporary pause on adding new F visa interviews until the government issues new guidance to embassies/consulates on the expansion of social media screening and vetting of visa applicants. ISSS staff have also seen these reports, and we continue to monitor the situation but there has been no official communication from the U.S. government. We do not know how long this pause will last but it is reported to be temporary. Current students requiring a new F visa to re-enter the U.S. should check with their local U.S. embassy or consulate for visa appointment availability **before departing** the U.S. since your return could be impacted. This pause should not impact anyone who already has a scheduled visa appointment or who has been approved for a visa interview waiver.



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## What to Do?

- Students with a confirmed F visa interview appointment should plan to attend it. Contact the [local U.S. embassy or consulate](#) if you have questions about your appointment.
- Students traveling outside the U.S. and who require a new F visa but do not have an appointment scheduled should go to the [local embassy or consulate's website](#) to schedule an appointment as soon as possible. If no appointments are currently available, continue to check the site frequently for new appointment times to be added to their schedule. If you do not have to travel outside the U.S. right now, consider waiting until these visa appointments are available again. You are allowed to stay in the U.S. with an expired visa as long as you continue to maintain your [F-1](#) status and your SEVIS record stays Active. Review our [Travel & Visa page](#) for relevant information.

## Visas for Students from China

The [U.S. Department of State announced](#) that it will work with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to “revoke visas for Chinese students, including those with connections to the Chinese Communist Party or studying in critical fields.” The statement also indicates they will revise criteria to enhance scrutiny of future visa applicants from People’s Republic of China and Hong Kong.

The University and ISSS are monitoring this situation and trying to gather more information. It is unknown at this time what criteria or legal justification will be used to revoke visas or what fields of study will be considered “critical.” No additional details have been released or published by the government. ISSS will communicate directly with any potentially impacted students. **If you receive an official communication from the U.S. embassy or consulate saying your visa has been cancelled or revoked and you must leave the U.S., please email [uwtiss@uw.edu](mailto:uwtiss@uw.edu) immediately or [schedule a 1:1 appointment or attend one of our drop-ins](#) so we can provide you with additional guidance.**

The entire UW Tacoma community supports and values you, our international student community, and we are all privileged you chose UW Tacoma and that you are here. Whether you are a current international student, alumni, or incoming new student, UW international students are an essential part of the Husky Community. If you have any questions about this message, please contact us at [uwtiss@uw.edu](mailto:uwtiss@uw.edu).

Warm regards,

Kelsey Crain, Assistant Director, DSO

Tashaya (Shaya) Duncan, Program Coordinator, DSO

Akane Yamaguchi, Director, PSDO