

January 21, 2025

Dear Faculty Colleagues-

We have received inquiries about whether it is still advisable to admit international students for future semesters. The short answer is— YES!

Currently the travel ban for student visas applies to [39 countries](#). The immigration [Ban on 75 countries](#) is for those seeking permanent residency and *does not* apply to student visas at this time.

Why should your department continue to admit international applicants, including students from countries on the banned list?

- Presidential orders have and will continue to change rapidly.
 - These orders are routinely reviewed, changed, or re-issued every 6 months
- Applicants may already be in the US or have citizenship in a second country that is NOT on the banned list.
 - The ban does not apply to students coming from another U.S. school in student status
 - The ban does not apply if they have a passport from a country that is not on the list
 - There are exemptions to the ban depending on a student's immigration statuses in the U.S.
- A temporary admission pause for international students will send the wrong message, creating the perception that international students are not welcome here. Rebuilding UNM's reputation in countries where we are currently well established would take years.
- The visa application process is complex, and there are various factors that determine whether or not a visa application is approved. Two students with similar credentials applying from the same home country can have varying outcomes when it comes to their visa applications. The decision rests in the hands of the U.S. Consular Officer and should not influence your admission decision.
- Not admitting international applicants will reduce our global diversity and could result in departments missing out on competitive graduate students.



- Students need to know that we value and support them during these unprecedented times.

We acknowledge the difficulty of navigating federal communications around immigration issues and related travel bans. The Global Education Office (GEO) is a resource for you as you address admission questions for prospective students or encounter visa status and/or work permission questions for current international students. Please know that GEO personnel are in active communication with international students and prospective international students regarding rule changes and their individual options.

Let's keep the door open for students from around the world who dream of coming to the U.S. and attending UNM. The current obstacles are real, but our mission has not changed!

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