Good Afternoon,

The HIO has just sent this email to all returning and/or continuing students and scholars who are citizens of the six countries named in President Trump’s second Executive Order regarding travel. It updates them on yesterday’s Supreme Court decision and its impact.

If you have any questions or concerns, please notify your HIO Advisor.

We hope you are enjoying your summer.

We are writing to you as a citizen of one of the six countries named in President Trump’s second Executive Order regarding travel. Yesterday, the United States Supreme Court issued an opinion making clear that people who have “a bona fide relationship with a person or entity in the United States” remain eligible for visas, notwithstanding the Executive Order. In illustrating what counts as a bona fide relationship, the Court specifically mentioned:

- Students admitted to a U.S. university,
- Persons who have received job offers from a U.S. employer, and
- Lecturers invited to speak to American audiences.
A visa document (Form I-20 or Form DS-2019) and a letter of admission or a written confirmation of your affiliation with Harvard should establish that such a relationship exists. Nevertheless, it remains unclear how consular officials and/or the customs officials at U.S. ports of entry will comply with the Court’s order.

If you travel outside the U.S. over the summer, you must have the proper documents for your return to the U.S. Please see below:

For F-1 and J-1 Visa Holders:
The travel signature on your Form I-20 or DS-2019 cannot be more than 12 months old (6 months old if you are on F-1 OPT) at the time of your reentry to the U.S. If you already obtained an updated signature from the HIO this spring, it is not necessary to get an additional one. If you do need a new travel signature, come to the HIO between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, with your Form I-20 or DS-2019 and passport. No appointment is needed for a signature. For more information on proper documentation for travel, please visit our website.

In addition, please be sure to check your current visa and passport validity. If your passport needs to be renewed, you should contact your country’s Embassy for further information. If your visa stamp has expired or will expire before you return to the U.S., please contact your HIO advisor before making any travel plans.

For H-1B, O-1, TN and E-3 Visa Holders:
You will not need travel signatures from the HIO. For information on documents needed to reenter the U.S., please refer to the Travel section of the HIO website. If your visa stamp has expired or will expire before you return to the U.S., please contact your HIO advisor before making any travel plans.

Emergency Contact:
The HIO has established an emergency telephone number to assist international students and scholars who encounter problems when attempting to enter the U.S. This emergency number (857-302-3772) should only be used for immigration and visa-related emergencies that require an immediate response when University offices are closed. This may include requests for clarifying an
individual’s visa status or Harvard University affiliation, or answering other questions from Customs and Border Protection officers or similar government officials. Any additional inquiries, such as guidance on the ability to travel or the risk of traveling, issuance of new or renewed visa documents, or routine immigration questions, should be directed to 617-495-2789 during regular business hours.

We should note that the Supreme Court will hear the case more fully in the fall. If that results in a meaningful change in the relevant rules, or if the government issues guidance about how it will implement yesterday’s order, we will be back in touch. For now, we want to emphasize that as long as you have a valid visa stamp in your passport and a valid visa document, this court decision should not affect your travel plans. Please reach out to your HIO advisor if you have any questions and keep us posted.

Have a good summer.