



Focus

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The New Landscape for International Students

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PRESIDENT TRUMP'S executive orders seeking to limit travel to the United States from several predominantly Muslim countries have affected many people around the world who were considering studying in the United States, as well as the American colleges that would like to welcome them. The bans were initially blocked by the courts, but the U.S. Supreme Court has allowed a narrower version of the ban to go into effect for now. This collection looks at the uncertainties and fears the orders have engendered, and what colleges are doing to overcome them.

4 **An 'America First' Presidency Clashes With Higher Ed's Worldview**

Colleges that have prided themselves on working across borders don't want to give that up.

8 **Before the Travel Ban, Signs of Weakening Interest From Students Abroad**

Graduate-student applications from overseas increased by a meager 1 percent in 2016.

10 **New Travel Ban Still Sows Chaos and Confusion**

The new order offers little guidance to foreign students seeking to enroll this coming fall.

12 **6 Reasons Trump's 'Extreme Vetting' of Travelers May Already Be the Norm**

Students from abroad submit to extensive questions, scrutiny, and restrictions.

14 **New Order on Visas Could Make American Colleges Less Appealing Overseas**

The president's move to overhaul the H-1B program could affect international enrollment.

15 **Even in Limbo, Trump's Travel Ban Reverberates**

The personal effects of Trump's efforts to bar travelers from six countries are still being felt.

23 **Colleges Grapple With How to Help Students Left in Limbo by Travel Ban**

Affected international students need housing, campus jobs, and other support this summer.

25 **International Students Dodge Trump's Partly Reinstated Travel Ban**

Current students will be allowed to enter the U.S., but questions remain for new ones.

Cover photo of Aida Jamali, a doctoral student from Iran, by Tyler Stable for *The Chronicle*



PATRICK T. FALLON, REUTERS

Protesters at Los Angeles International Airport carried signs in January with the names of people denied entry after President Trump signed his executive order restricting travel into the United States.

An 'America First' Presidency Clashes With Higher Ed's Worldview

By KARIN FISCHER

THE AMERICAN CAMPUS today is global. Colleges send their students abroad and welcome the best and brightest from around the world, some one million last year, to their classrooms. Research is international, and universities work with partners around the world to create new programs, degrees,

and even institutions. More than half of all colleges include internationalization among their top strategic priorities.

But those globalist attitudes put higher education at odds with the nationalist policies of the new Trump administration. Colleges that have prided themselves on working across borders of country

and culture now find themselves dealing with a president who campaigned on a pledge to build a wall to keep out foreigners. As higher education was looking outward, President Trump and his supporters embraced a mantra of “America first.”

Last Friday brought the clearest example of that divide when, just a week into his presidency, Mr. Trump signed an executive order imposing a travel ban on all visitors, including students and those with valid visas, from seven largely Muslim countries. The hastily imposed order stranded travelers and led colleges to advise the more than 17,000 students from the affected nations — Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen — as well as thousands more faculty and staff not to go abroad during the 90-day ban.

For colleges, the last week has been a mad rush, as they have sought to intervene on behalf of those stuck overseas and to reassure students that, despite the executive order, they would be able to continue their studies uninterrupted.

But the president’s action, and the broader political direction it signals, carries potential longer-term implications. It could hamper recruitment of international students and scholars, complicate, or even quash, overseas partnerships, and diminish U.S. higher education’s standing in the world.

“A crucial part of the pre-eminence of American higher education is our openness,” says David W. Oxtoby, president of Pomona College. “I don’t see how we can close ourselves off.”

For colleges, the challenges are twofold: They must make the case for global education to a country where many citizens doubt its value. And they must convince a shaken and skeptical international audience that they still believe in it, too.

A SIGNALING EFFECT

Even before the executive order, some campus officials had worried about a “Trump effect” on international recruitment. A survey of prospective students, conducted months before the election, had found that nearly two-thirds said they would not feel welcome on American campuses if the Republican businessman won the White House.

But it was also possible to dismiss such concerns as overblown. After all, except for a few years immediately following the September 11, 2001, terror attacks, the number of students seeking to study in the United States has climbed steadily for the last seven decades. Even when events — a financial crisis, a coup at home — led to fall-offs in enrollments from a top sending country, there were students from elsewhere eager for an American degree and the quality it confers. With the possible exception of Hollywood entertainment, higher education has been one of America’s most beloved and durable exports.

With the signing of the executive order, however, many international educators fear all bets are off. Though the number of students actually affected by the travel ban is relatively low, less than 2 percent of international enrollments, its impact may be outsized. Images of students and other travelers detained in airports or blocked from getting on flights have been beamed around the world.

“It’s become concrete,” says Alan Ruby, a senior fellow at the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania and an expert in international education. “It’s a signaling effect, saying, ‘You’re not like us. You’re not welcome here.’ And it will echo and echo and echo.”

That echo could particularly reverberate in the Islamic world — though the order applies to just a handful of countries, Mr. Trump had, during the campaign, called for a broader “Muslim ban.” International advisers on several campuses say they’ve been approached by students from other countries with large Muslim populations wondering if they, too, could face restrictions. Were the ban to be extended to Saudi Arabia, for instance, the effect could be more significant. There are currently 60,000 Saudis on American campuses, making it the third-largest source of foreign students.

Colleges that have prided themselves on working across borders now confront a president who has pledged to build a wall.

Immediately after the election, those opposed to Mr. Trump’s victory were admonished to take his campaign promises seriously but not literally. The imposition of the travel ban, just days into his presidency, has educators and other observers worrying which of his other pledges could become reality.

A trade war with China, for example, would put the United States at odds with by far the largest source of international students on American

campuses. China's state-run *Global Times* newspaper has already editorialized that the United States should expect retaliation if the Trump administration imposed new tariffs. One reprisal it suggested: Limiting the number of students studying in America.

Hans de Wit, director of the Center for International Higher Education at Boston College, says the fact that the current concerns are driven by policy makes this moment distinct from, say, the 2001 terror attacks. "What is happening now is not an incident," he says, "it's structural change."

A number of colleges have mounted a social media campaign, #youarewelcomehere, posting videos and messages to let prospective students know that American campuses remain open and hospitable. (The effort predates the travel ban.)

Meanwhile, other countries have not been sitting still. Universities across Canada, not exactly known for its hard-sell tactics, took to social media in the wake of the travel ban to remind international students of their country's welcoming reputation and underscore its more-liberal immigration policies.

The timing of President Trump's order, coming in the middle of application season, also is tricky for American colleges, says Rahul Choudaha, an expert on global student mobility. A number of colleges have told *The Chronicle* that applications from abroad are down from the previous year. And Mr. Choudaha says some prospective students could opt to delay their applications for a year, in order to gauge the full effect of the new administration's policies.

Were that to happen, it could have a real impact on some institutions' bottom line. In the wake of the economic downturn several years ago, colleges turned to international students — who, at the undergraduate and master's-degree level, typically pay full tuition — to plug holes caused by deteriorating taxpayer support or declining local enrollments. Nafsa: Association of International Educators estimates that overseas students contributed \$32.8 billion to the U.S. economy last year.

Mr. de Wit and a colleague, Philip G. Altbach, warn that small colleges that have become overly dependent on international tuition revenues could face closure if student numbers declined significantly.

BENEFITS AT RISK

But the impact of international students goes beyond the financial.

Take Iran. Though it's the 11th-largest source of international students, it punches above its weight when it comes to Ph.D.s — only three other foreign countries accounted for more doctoral students.

Over all, nearly 30 percent of doctoral degrees

awarded by American colleges last year went to international students, and in engineering, mathematics, and computer science, fully half of the degrees were earned by those here on student visas. Some disciplines literally couldn't fill their slots without international students, says Michael McRobbie, president of Indiana University. "We're putting our talent pool in jeopardy."

Many of the students return home, helping contribute to their local economies and collaborating on research projects with their former professors and classmates back in America. Others stay in the United States, filling faculty and researcher roles in American colleges. More than any other country since World War II, the United States has benefited from brain gain — it not only brings some of the most talented people to study in its colleges, it keeps them.

The brain gain transcends higher education, notes Robert A. Brown, president of Boston University. According to a recent study by the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, more than one-third of the founders of American start-ups were born outside of the United States, and two-thirds of those innovators hold doctorates from American colleges. "If anything, we shouldn't back away" from bringing in international students, Mr. Brown says. "We should work harder to bring more people along."

Mr. Brown and other campus leaders also worry that the travel ban could complicate research collaborations. Already, researchers from the seven

“A crucial part of the pre-eminence of American higher education is our openness. I don't see how we can close ourselves off.”

named countries cannot come to the United States to work on joint research projects or to present at conferences. In addition, there are concerns that, whether stated policy or not, visitors to the United States, including academics, could face increased scrutiny and longer wait times for visas.

Some scholars are even considering a boycott of academic conferences in the United States until the travel ban is lifted. A petition circulating online has drawn thousands of signatures from professors and researchers around the world.

Patti McGill Peterson, who recently stepped down as presidential adviser for global initiatives at the American Council on Education, marvels at the idea of a boycott of the United States. “When did you last hear that!?”

But Ms. Peterson, who is currently working as a consultant, says she also has heard from colleagues around the world who are religious or ethnic minorities who ask whether they’ll be safe in America.

John Hudzik, a former vice president for global engagement at Michigan State University and a frequent writer on internationalization, says he fears that other countries could reciprocate, making it tougher for American academics to obtain visas to attend conferences or do field work abroad.

In the long term, obstacles to international collaboration have the potential to undercut the global standing of American academics and researchers. Papers with international co-authors, for example, are more highly cited. And global rankings typically factor in international collaborations and reputation.

Mr. Altbach and Mr. de Wit, of Boston College’s Center for International Higher Education, even suggest that American policy could affect overseas programs or campuses of American universities. A number of the campuses, they point out, are in Middle Eastern countries, which may be less enthusiastic about supporting such projects in the wake of the travel ban.

As president of New York University, John E. Sexton spearheaded the building of two international campuses, in Abu Dhabi and China, part of the college’s aggressive international expansion. It would be a “disaster,” says Mr. Sexton, who stepped down as NYU’s president last year, if American colleges pulled back from their global work.

“It would be like retreating into a cave. The benefit would be zero and the cost would be cataclysmic.”

A PUBLIC IMAGE PROBLEM

One of the biggest beneficiaries of colleges’ international efforts, Mr. Sexton and others argue, are right here at home: American students.

Being exposed to a diverse set of ideas, whether studying abroad or sitting side-by-side on campus with classmates from overseas, is critical to preparing students to succeed in an increasingly global workplace. Whether they find a job in their

hometown or on the other side of the globe, they will need to be able to work with people from other cultures and backgrounds. In a recent survey by the Association of American Colleges and Universities, nearly 80 percent of employers said that in-

If anything, says one college leader, we shouldn’t back away from bringing in international students: “We should work harder to bring more people along.”

tercultural skills and the understanding of societies outside the United States were important when hiring recent college graduates.

Such efforts have a long way to go, says Carol Geary Schneider, who recently retired as the organization’s president, but to not expose American students to global ideas and experiences could “hamstring” them in the future.

Even as higher-education officials argue that international exposure gives American students a leg up, many Americans perceive globalization as the enemy. Talk with many of those who voted for Mr. Trump, and they say they fear that foreign competition, that outsiders, could take away their jobs or undermine their way of life.

For them, globalization isn’t something to be embraced, to be prized, to be pursued. It is a source of anxiety, it is something to dread.

Mr. Sexton, of NYU, says that for many people on the economic edge, such concerns are not unfounded. They are real and tangible.

Colleges’ challenge, he says, is to demonstrate the value of international interconnectedness. To show how international research boosts the American economy or how students from overseas make their own children’s lives richer. “The benefits of globalization,” he says, “need to have a face.”

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IMAGINECHINA, AP IMAGES

Education officials from the Illinois Institute of Technology talk with visitors at a recruiting fair in Beijing. Graduate-school applications to American universities from overseas students increased by only 1 percent in 2016, suggesting global markets were already rattled before President Trump took office.

Even Before the Travel Ban, Signs of Weakening Interest From Students Abroad

By KARIN FISCHER

NEW DATA suggest the flow of foreign students was already ebbing even before the Trump administration imposed a travel ban on citizens of seven predominantly Muslim countries, sparking concern that anti-global attitudes could depress international recruitment.

A new report from the Council of Graduate

Schools shows that the number of students from overseas enrolling in American graduate programs in the fall of 2016 grew by 5 percent, the same rate as in the previous year.

Applications from abroad, however, increased by an anemic 1 percent. Trend lines from the two largest sending countries are particularly troubling: First-time enrollments from China flatlined,

while those from India tumbled 7 percent, following several years of double-digit growth. Together, the two countries account for half of all international students, and nearly two-thirds of first-time international graduate students, on American campuses.

Interest in the most popular field, engineering, also fell, by 3 percent. One out of four foreign graduate students majors in engineering.

The findings come with several caveats. The report, of course, covers only graduate students, or about 37 percent of the more than one million international students in the United States. And those students were applying to, and even beginning their studies at, American colleges when few political prognosticators gave Donald J. Trump strong odds of winning the presidency. So, despite his sometimes nativist campaign rhetoric, it is unlikely that the billionaire businessman had a direct impact on 2016's enrollment totals.

THE 'TRUMP EFFECT'

But the lack of an obvious "Trump effect" makes the results of the international-enrollment survey even more troubling, as it suggests other factors could be weakening interest in key global markets. The number of new students from Brazil and Saudi Arabia, for instance, fell by 9 percent and 13 percent, respectively, after the governments of those two countries curtailed costly national scholarship programs.

Concern about a brain drain and about exposure to Western values, meanwhile, has led China to invest in improving its own universities. Communist Party officials have also sought to halt the explosive growth of internationally focused high-school programs, which have become a fertile pipeline to overseas study. And enrollments from India have long been volatile, shifting with economic and employment prospects, both at home and in the United States.

"We may be reaching a point," the report warns, "where we will see fewer surges of overall international graduate enrollment and observe more modest changes over time."

Into that mix comes President Trump, who just a week into his presidency ordered a 90-day ban on travelers from seven Muslim-majority countries — Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen — and suspended the admission of refugees into the United States. (The executive order is currently on hold, while it is being chal-

lenged in court.)

While the affected countries account for fewer than 2 percent of all international students on American campuses, college officials worry about the travel ban's signaling power. Even before Mr. Trump took office, a survey of prospective students found that two-thirds would think twice about studying in America were he to be elected.

"Trump is such a loose cannon," said Jiang Xueqin, an educational consultant in China, "that all it might take is one tweet about Chinese students taking all the spots at American colleges, and China could blow up."

Future policy directives from the White House — on trade, say, or immigration policy — could also discourage international enrollments. If Mr. Trump were to put limits on the H-1B visa program for highly skilled workers, that could cause

“Trump is such a loose cannon that all it might take is one tweet about Chinese students taking all the spots at American colleges, and China could blow up.”

students, from India in particular, who seek post-graduate work experience to stay home or to consider studying in other countries.

That could hit American colleges' bottom line because both undergraduates and master's-degree students typically pay full freight on their tuition. Moody's Investors Service estimates that a disproportionate share of net tuition revenue, as much as 10 percent, collected by American colleges comes from international students.

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New Travel Ban Still Sows Chaos and Confusion

By KARIN FISCHER

OLIVIER DOULIERY, AP IMAGES

President Trump's reissued travel ban could have a stronger case for being legal, one scholar says, because it includes a waiver provision.

A LONG-ANTICIPATED executive order restricting travelers from a half-dozen predominantly Muslim countries is likely to bring little certainty to American college campuses.

The new order, which replaces a measure put on hold by a federal appeals court nearly a month ago, imposes a 90-day ban on issuance of new visas, including student visas, to citizens of six countries — Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. But it will allow free travel to those who hold current visas.

While the reissued ban provides some reassurance to students and scholars already on campus that they can travel freely, it offers little guidance to those seeking to enroll for the first time this coming fall.

Although the order directly affects a relatively small number of international students — those from the six named countries make up about 15,000 out of more than one million now studying in the United States — its impact on perceptions abroad of American openness could be much farther-reaching.

The new order and the one it replaced, which was challenged in court partly on grounds that it harmed public universities in Washington State and Minnesota, are nothing short of twin bombs dropped in the heart of admissions season, sowing chaos and confusion in their wake.

“There are a lot of unknowns, a lot of anxiety,” says Ahmad Ezzeddine, associate vice president for educational outreach and international programs at Wayne State University, which currently has roughly 130 students and scholars from the affected countries.

The new order is also likely to end up in court. Stephen Yale-Loehr, a professor of law at Cornell University who specializes in immigration law, called the revised order “essentially old wine in a new bottle.” He said he expected litigation to continue.

Washington’s attorney general, Bob Ferguson, said in a news conference that he would probably decide by the end of the week what legal action the state should take.

Allan Wernick, director of Citizenship Now, a legal-aid clinic run by the City University of New York, says the government could now have a stronger case that the ban falls within President Trump’s powers over immigration. That’s because the new order includes a waiver provision, allowing individuals to apply for an exemption to the travel restrictions. The U.S. Departments of State and Homeland Security would grant waivers on a case-by-case basis.

SECURITY CONCERNS

The Trump administration has defended the ban based on security concerns, arguing that the timeout

is needed to improve vetting and security procedures to, as the order states, “avert the entry into the United States of foreign nationals who may aid, support, or commit violent, criminal, or terrorist acts.”

A report by the Department of Homeland Security, however, has said there is little evidence that visitors from the countries named in the ban pose a terrorist threat to the United States.

The executive order also suspends the refugee program for 120 days.

The revised order differs in several respects from the original: Unlike the first order, which took effect immediately and caught travelers by surprise, stranding many overseas, the new measure will not start until March 16.

Green-card holders, permanent residents, and dual nationals traveling on a visa from another country are exempt from restrictions, the order makes clear, as are visitors from Iraq, which was included in the first measure. The exclusion of Iraq has a relatively small impact on colleges, as fewer than 2,000 Iraqis currently study on American campuses.

The order also applies only to new visa holders, permitting travelers with visas issued before March 16, including student visas, to enter the United States.

But the latter provision may do less to relax travel restrictions on current students than would first appear. Students from the countries included in the travel ban often are granted single-entry visas, meaning that if they travel outside the United States they must apply for a new visa to return to continue their studies.

Some colleges have begun exploring options for housing and supporting affected students over the summer if they cannot return to their home countries.

‘A REAL LOSS’

Still, the biggest unknown is what impact the reinstated ban could have on new enrollments from overseas. Barring court challenges, the ban would be in place through mid-June, long after colleges’ deadlines for admissions decisions and acceptances. What will happen after the order expires is unknown: Will the United States begin issuing new visas to citizens of the affected countries? Or could travel restrictions be extended?

Karen P. DePauw, dean of the graduate school at Virginia Tech, where Iranians are the third largest group of foreign students, said that the 90-day freeze on new visas could make it impossible for students from the affected countries, who already typically go through an extended vetting process, to receive visas in time for the start of the fall semester. Still, she has instructed faculty not to consider country of origin in admitting students. “We

want to admit the most qualified students,” she says, “no matter what country they come from.”

What’s more, colleges fear that the message sent by the order could reverberate with prospective students and their families around the globe, not just in the countries named in the order.

Even before the election, there were signs that a Trump presidency could depress international enrollments. In a survey last spring of more than 40,000 prospective students, 60 percent said they would feel less welcome and be less likely to study in the United States if Mr. Trump were to become president.

The initial executive order, issued with little warning less than a week after Mr. Trump took office, put flesh on those fears. Anecdotally, some colleges have reported a drop-off in applications, while others express concern that yields will be down as admitted students opt not to enroll.

“That would be a real loss for American higher education,” Mr. Ezzeddine says.

Some colleges are trying to be proactive in addressing prospective students’ concerns head on. Northeastern University recently sent out an email to all 9,500 of its international applicants, not just those from the six countries covered by the travel ban, reassuring them that the campus continues to be a “welcoming community.”

In a written statement, Molly Corbett Broad, president of the American Council on Education, said, “While the revised order has narrowed the number of people impacted by the travel ban, we fear that those still excluded — coupled with the faulty initial roll-out and the harsh rhetoric that often accompanies today’s public policy discussions about immigration — still creates a climate where it is far more difficult for international students and scholars to view this country as a welcoming place for study and research.”

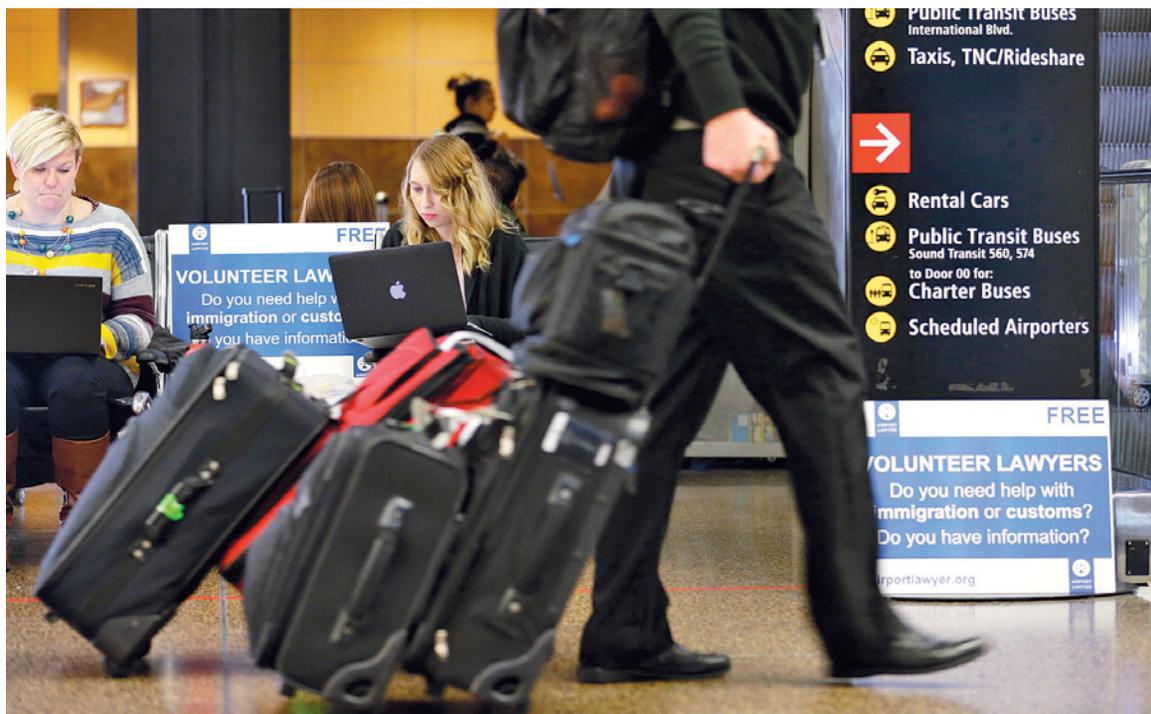
Aside from those countries directly affected, colleges are most closely eyeing India, the second-largest source of international students on American campuses. The killing of an Indian engineer and the wounding of his colleague, also a native of India, in Kansas in February has compounded worries that Indian students might think twice about studying in the United States. Both men had initially come to the United States as graduate students, and the attack is being investigated as a hate crime.

There’s precedence for issues of safety and political climate to depress enrollments — Australia saw its numbers from India plummet a decade ago after attacks on Indian students in that country. The father of the Indian man wounded in the Kansas shooting appealed to other parents not to send their children to study in America. “The situation seems to be pretty bad after Trump took over as the U.S. president,” he said.

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6 Reasons Trump's 'Extreme Vetting' of Travelers May Already Be the Norm

By KARIN FISCHER



TED S. WARREN, AP IMAGES

Asti Gallina, a law student at the U. of Washington, volunteers with a group that helps international travelers arriving at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

WHEN the Trump administration on Monday issued an executive order halting the issuance of new visas to citizens of six predominantly Muslim countries, it argued that the timeout was necessary to improve security-screening procedures.

President Trump has called for “extreme vetting” of travelers, including students and scholars, from the six countries — Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen — and has said those nations sponsor or harbor terrorist groups.

But the talk of heightened screening comes as a surprise to students like Mir Shahab aldin Razavi Hessabi, a doctoral student in theoretical physics at the University of Georgia. Getting the U.S. government’s approval to study in the United States is a complicated process for all international students, often taking months for students from the affected countries. “There is already so much scrutiny,” Mr. Hessabi says.

To get a better sense of the vetting to which international students are subject, *The Chronicle* spoke with a half-dozen designated school officials, cam-

pus administrators who are responsible for issuing visa-related documents and maintaining foreign-student records.

Students must document that they are serious about studying in the United States.

Colleges make admissions decisions on academic merit. But once an admission offer is made, students must undergo another application process to get a visa. The lengthy questionnaire asks an assortment of medical, criminal, and security-related questions, such as whether students have a communicable disease of “public-health significance” or have participated in genocide or torture. Students must also demonstrate that they can afford to study in the United States, providing bank statements and other financial documents to show how they will pay for the first 12 months of schooling.

Students must go through an in-person interview.

Once their visa application is submitted, students must schedule an in-person interview with a U.S. consular official. The interviews, which typically last just a few minutes, are assessments of whether applicants truly intend to study in America — are they proficient in English? can they talk about their college of choice? — or are just looking for a loophole to enter the country.

Perhaps most important, students must demonstrate “nonimmigrant intent” — that is, that they have ties to their home country and do not plan to stay in the United States after earning a degree. That can be particularly difficult to prove in a country in turmoil, like many of those covered by the travel ban. Another complicating factor is that students in countries, like Iran, without a U.S. Embassy or consulate must travel to another country to meet the interview requirement. Mr. Hessabi went to Dubai for his interview.

Students can be flagged for additional scrutiny.

So-called “administrative processing” is at once familiar and a mystery to campus administrators. Government officials don’t publicly talk about what goes into the extra screening or what triggers it, but when it happens, the process grinds to a halt and the applicants’ information is sent to Washington, where it is vetted by a dozen intelligence agencies. Students may be flagged for administrative processing because their name matches one on a government watch list, because they plan to major in a field that raises national-security concerns, because of their country of origin — or for some other reason.

Colleges with significant Iranian enrollments — of the six countries, Iran, by far, sends the most students to the United States, about 12,000 — report that all or most of those students go through

administrative processing, which can take weeks or even months. Students have had to defer admission if the inquiry stretches past a program’s start date.

Students can be subject to special restrictions.

While many international students are granted multiple entry visas to come to the United States, allowing them to travel outside the country over the course of their studies, some students, including many from the countries affected by the travel ban, are permitted only single-entry visas. That means if they leave the United States — to visit their families, participate in academic conferences, or study or conduct research abroad — they must start the application process all over again. Since he came to the United States nine years ago, Mr. Hessabi has not returned home.

Students and scientists from a handful of countries, including Iran, also are barred from participating in certain government-supported research deemed sensitive.

Students are subject to extra screening at the airport.

“Your visa is your entry ticket,” says Adam Julian, director of international student and scholar services and outreach at Appalachian State University, but it does not guarantee admission to the United States. Customs officials can deny entry to travelers at the port of entry, including those with valid visas, if they believe the visitors are violating the terms of their visas.

Students and other travelers may also be subject to secondary screening at the airport. Mr. Julian, who is chairman of a subcommittee of Nafsa: Association of International Educators that deals with travel by international students and scholars, says he has been getting reports of an uptick in students’ being pulled aside for additional screening for the last couple of years. For a time following the Boston Marathon bombing, in 2013, the Department of Homeland Security ordered all international students to go through extra vetting.

Students are tracked.

Once international students arrive in the United States, they are monitored via a government database known as the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System. Colleges are required to use the system, which was set up after the September 2001 terrorist attacks, to enter and regularly update information about all international students, notifying federal authorities if a student moves, gets a new phone number, or changes majors. “International students,” says Jenny Bowen, associate director of international-student services at Indiana University at Bloomington, “are our most tracked visitors.”

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Trump's New Order on Visas Could Make American Colleges Less Appealing Overseas

By KARIN FISCHER

YET AGAIN a Trump-administration executive order has the potential to roil American campuses and their recruitment of international students.

President Trump signed a measure on April 18 that would target fraud and abuse in overseas guest-worker programs and increase federal oversight of the H-1B visa program for highly skilled foreigners.

Higher education ranks third behind technology-related occupations as the largest industry sponsor of recipients of H-1B visas. But colleges' chief concern is not likely to be the visa holders — typically, professors, researchers, and postdocs — on their payrolls.

Rather, the order could have an impact on American colleges' recruitment of students from abroad. For many international students, the opportunity to stay in the United States, even temporarily, after graduation and gain work experience is almost as valuable as an American degree itself. Any policy that might erect hurdles on the pathway from college to work could depress international enrollments.

Colleges already had been bracing for a potential “Trump effect” on foreign-student numbers next fall after the president signed a pair of earlier executive orders, since challenged in the courts, that would temporarily bar the issuance of U.S. visas to travelers, including students and scholars, from six Muslim-majority countries. A recent global survey of prospective students found that one in three potential applicants was less likely to want to study in the United States because of the political climate there.

Many people overseas had interpreted the proposed travel bans as a first step by the Trump administration to tighten American borders and close off the country's job market to outsiders. Headlines in India, for example, have been sounding the alarm for weeks about possible restrictions on H-1B and other visa programs.

India is second only to China as a source of the

more than one million international students now on American campuses.

The new executive order may only reinforce the perception of the United States as unwelcome to people from other countries.

A LONG PROCESS

But Mr. Trump, echoing the “America First” themes of his presidential campaign, said at an event at a Wisconsin toolmaker that the measure was needed to “restore the American dream” and to prevent the “theft of American prosperity.”

For too long, he said, companies have used and abused the H-1B program to fire Americans and replace them with lower-cost foreign employees. Instead, the president said, the H-1B program, in which demand regularly outstrips the limited supply of visas, should be limited to “only the most skilled and highest-paid applicants.”

That emphasis, on the most highly skilled workers, could actually have the potential to benefit foreign graduates of American colleges.

While it is unclear exactly what shape reforms of the H-1B program may take, in a background briefing before the president signed the order, an unnamed senior administration official indicated that it could be modified to favor workers with advanced degrees. But whether preference might be given to graduates of American universities was far from clear.

The order instructs the secretary of state, the attorney general, the secretary of labor, and the secretary of homeland security to suggest, “as soon as practicable,” new rules and guidance for the H-1B program. New regulations, however, can take months, and sometimes even years, to put in place.

American colleges have long advocated broader reforms of the immigration system, saying that the government should make it easier for the brightest foreign-born graduates to stay and work in the United States, particularly in high-demand science and engineering fields.

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Aida Jamali, a doctoral student from Iran, worries about having to leave the United States. "I have my life here, my apartment, my research."

TYLER STABLE FOR THE CHRONICLE

Even in Limbo, Trump's Travel Ban Reverberates

By KARIN FISCHER

After the president tried to bar travelers from six countries, the personal effects are still being felt

DETROIT

IF YOU'RE an international applicant to Wayne State University, chances are you might have heard directly from it recently, a personal note to reassure you. *We want you to know that this is a diverse, open institution. We want you to know we want you here.*

Spring usually brings nerves and nail-biting to students awaiting an admissions verdict. But this year, it may be colleges like Wayne State that are most on edge. The source of that anxiety can be summed up in two words: travel ban.

The late-January decision by the Trump administration to bar travelers, including students, from seven, later amended to six, predominantly Muslim countries has cast a pall of uncertainty over the admissions season. Though the ban on the issuance of visas, originally intended to last 90 days, has

been put on hold by a federal court, it is already being felt in far-reaching ways. It's unclear whether students from the affected countries — Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen — will be able to get visas to study in the United States next fall.

Never mind next fall — it's hard to know what visa policy will be next month, next week, the next day.

The presidential executive order has also unsettled international students and scholars already on American campuses. Despite the court stay, many are afraid to travel, scared that they could be blocked from returning to the United States and unable to resume their studies or work.

And the reverberations could be felt beyond the countries named in the order. Separate from the travel ban, the administration has ordered stepped-up vetting of all visa applicants to the United States. In a recent worldwide survey, one in three prospective students said they had less interest in studying in the United States because of the current political climate. Forty percent of all American colleges report a drop in international applications this spring.

"We are broadcasting a message globally," says Farshad Fotouhi, dean of the College of Engineering at Wayne State, "that you are not welcome."

Wayne State may have more to lose than most colleges. It enrolls more students from the affected countries than all but 10 other American universities.

But the university is also emblematic of American higher education. The past decade has seen unparalleled growth in interest in studying in the United States from abroad; international enrollments have nearly doubled in that time. American colleges have come to rely on international students for the diversity they bring, as well as the dollars. According to estimates by Nafsa: Association of International Educators, foreign students at Wayne State contribute \$78.5 million to the local economy and support 1,123 jobs.

A sudden, and perhaps even sharp, decline in international students would be a major reversal.

At Wayne State, they're working overtime to try to prevent a falloff in applications from turning into a decrease in enrollments. For educators like Ahmad Ezzeddine, associate vice president for educational outreach and international programs, it's a fine line to walk. They need to acknowledge and address the alarm that the travel ban — and the antiglobalist sentiment that President Trump channeled in winning election — is raising overseas.

At the same time, they don't want to seed fears in attempting to allay them. Since World War II, the only real interruption to otherwise unbroken

growth in international enrollments came after the 2001 terrorist attacks, and even then, the largest one-year drop was just 2.4 percent.

"The optimist in me thinks this is temporary," Mr. Ezzeddine says of the ban. "But you can't help but be concerned."

WHEN Aida Jamali heard the news of the travel ban, her first thought was that she would have to leave the country, immediately. (*The Chronicle* is referring to Ms. Jamali by her first name and her mother's maiden name because she is concerned about the potential impact of speaking publicly about her experience on her visa status.)

The executive order was announced late on a Friday afternoon in January, just as offices at Wayne State and on campuses across the country were closing for the weekend. Panicky and unsure where to turn for guidance, Ms. Jamali, a 27-year-old doctoral student, made her way to a friend's house, where a group of fellow Iranian students had gathered.

Although they were together, all of them were glued to their phones, refreshing news sites, scrolling through Twitter, and exchanging messages — often rumors — with friends around the country. Of the nations included in the ban, Iran sends by far the most students to the United States, more than 12,000.

"Everyone was posting something," Ms. Jamali says, "and you didn't know what was right and what was wrong."

She is tiny, with a fine-boned, almost fragile prettiness that harbors intense determination and drive. She sought to study abroad not just for the academic experience but also to prove her inde-

"The optimist in me thinks this is temporary. But you can't help but be concerned."

pendence. She is in her fifth year at Wayne State, where she earned a master's degree before staying on for a Ph.D. in chemical engineering.

One of the things that Ms. Jamali has enjoyed the most about her graduate studies has been the opportunity to work as a teaching assistant. She feels a surge of pride and excitement when one of her students has a breakthrough with difficult ma-



TANYA MOUTZALIAS, MLIVE DETROIT

Protesters gathered on Wayne State U.'s campus in late January, after President Trump signed his first executive order barring travelers from certain Muslim-majority countries.

terial. Teaching has also given her the chance to get to know Americans, who are in short supply among the university's largely international graduate-student population in engineering.

She likes how open and friendly Americans are: "If you smile at them on the street, they don't think you're crazy." In Iran, she says, people might.

Suddenly, though, with the announcement of the travel ban, she felt uncomfortable being around other students, worried that they would ask her where she was from, that they would think that she didn't belong here. "I felt like I did something wrong," she says. "It felt shameful."

By text, her father offered words of encouragement. *What challenges you makes you stronger*, he wrote.

He had given her the same advice the previous summer, when she had run into a problem with her student visa.

Ms. Jamali's adviser was organizing a conference in China, and he had encouraged her to attend. It would be good professional development, he told her, and since she would already be out of the country, she could stop in Tehran.

It had been four years since Ms. Jamali had seen most of her family. When she came to the United States, she had been issued only a single-entry visa, meaning that if she left the country at any point during her studies, she would have to re-

ply for a new one. (Typically, international students have multiple-entry visas, allowing them to come and go for vacations, research trips, and study abroad, but such visas are rarely given to students from certain countries, including Iran.)

It took 57 days of waiting to get a new visa, because Ms. Jamali's application was subject to additional screening — as is often the case for Iranian students. At times she feared that she wouldn't be able to return to Detroit. "I have my life here, my apartment, my research," she says. "I thought maybe I would never see my boyfriend again."

Because of the stress, she couldn't fully enjoy the visit.

Now, with the travel ban, she was again plunged into uncertainty. She and her adviser were about to submit a research paper, and as they exchanged revisions, she tried to keep her feelings in check. Still, she found herself "crying a little bit and working a little bit."

"It felt like a disaster happening," she says.

On the Monday after the travel ban's announcement, after a weekend barrage of phone calls and emails from rattled students, Wayne State's Office of International Students and Scholars was in emergency-response mode. It sent out an informational message to those affected directly by the order and organized a Q&A session for all international students. The meeting was scheduled to go

for an hour, says Kelli E. Dixon, the office's director. It lasted more than three.

Like Ms. Jamali, many students were afraid that they would have to quit their studies and leave the country. Others fretted that the executive order might merely be an opening salvo. Wayne State's 2,300 international students come from a variety of nations, some with Muslim-majority populations, and many worried that their home countries would be added to the list.

One woman's mother had told her that, to keep safe, she should remove her *hijab*, the scarf that observant Muslim women wear to cover their hair. Another student had heard that President Trump wanted all Muslims to wear badges identifying them. A third student said he thought he would have to drop out of his Ph.D. program to be with his fiancée in Iran.

Ms. Dixon says the students' apprehensions went far beyond the Trump administration's relatively terse executive order. The shadowy perceptions, the what-ifs, she says, can be more terrifying than reality.

For Ms. Jamali, the meeting helped calm her anxiety. She would be able to stay and finish her degree, which she expects will take another year. But she worries that other Iranian students, with ambitions like hers, might not have the same opportunity.

She had another question for the international office: Was it OK for her, as a foreign student, to take part in a campus protest? She was assured it was.

On a blustery day, she joined a throng of students in front of the library to call on Mr. Trump to rescind the travel ban. The rally had been organized on short notice by several campus groups, and slowly, its numbers swelled as passers-by stopped to show their support.

Ms. Jamali spotted fellow international students in the crowd. She saw Americans, too, and it heartened her. "I realized," she says, "that they are with us."

IF the executive order was jarring for Ms. Jamali and other international students, Mohammad Mehrmohammadi's predicament started long before President Trump signed the travel ban.

For 15 months, the assistant professor of biomedical engineering has been in legal limbo, waiting for his green card. His H-1B visa, the temporary work permit for skilled foreigners, will expire in May.

The travel ban has raised new doubts about whether, as an Iranian, he'll be able to stay in the country where he has studied and worked for more than a decade. After all, his current troubles began under the relatively more open Obama administration. He's unsure what to expect from President Trump.

Mr. Mehrmohammadi knows other professors and postdocs who have gotten their green cards in a matter of weeks, and no reason has been given for the delay in his case. Why him? Is it his research? He uses lasers and ultrasound imaging to develop more effective ways to screen for breast cancer and to measure the oxygen levels of infants during difficult deliveries. Important work, to be sure, but neither controversial nor classified.

The rest of his activities seem equally unlikely to raise any flags. In what little free time he has, he likes to go hiking with his wife, Maryam.

Although he has a document permitting him to travel, he's afraid to, anxious that if he leaves the United States, he might not be allowed to return. He's not alone in this; despite the federal court's stay, many international students and faculty members have remained close to campus, worried they could get caught up in the travel ban's latest twist.

Mr. Mehrmohammadi turns down invitations to

America has become his home, and, despite the political rhetoric, it still feels welcoming.

international conferences. He has important collaborators just across the Detroit River in Canada, at the University of Windsor, but he doesn't visit their labs. Without permanent residency, he can't apply for the federal grants that are the lifeblood of scientific research.

In the long term, Mr. Mehrmohammadi worries that such restrictions could damage his academic career and chances for tenure.

So he has begun to contemplate what was once unthinkable: leaving America. More than any other nationality, recent doctoral recipients from Iran say they hope to stay and work in the United States after earning their degrees here. But Mr. Mehrmohammadi knows he is not alone in considering positions in other countries.

Anecdotally, universities in Canada with job openings say they have seen an uptick in highly qualified applicants from Iran and elsewhere, candidates whose first choice just months ago would have probably been the United States. Wayne State, in fact, recently hosted several foreign-born,

American-educated finalists for a position at the University of Windsor who did not want to risk crossing the border for an interview.

A drying-up of the international talent pipeline would be disastrous for programs like Mr. Mehrmohammadi's, in which the majority of his colleagues are foreign-born.

The professor isn't giving himself a deadline, but at a certain point, if his green card doesn't come through, he says, he will have to start looking for jobs outside the United States: in Canada, in Australia, in Europe. (Wayne State has filed the paperwork to extend his H-1B, so he is able to remain in the country for now.)

One place he probably won't go is back to Iran. Much of the high-tech equipment he uses in his experiments isn't available there. The constraints on science in Iran are a big part of why he came to the United States in the first place — as a master's-degree student, he couldn't even download papers from an international engineering database because of military, scientific, and trade sanctions against the country.

If he left the United States, Mr. Mehrmohammadi might have to restart some of his work. But he'd be free from the shadow of his legal status and able to travel — to conferences, for research, on vacation. He has watched enviously over the years as friends and colleagues have taken advantage of last-minute airfares to jet off to places like Mexico. "Maybe I'd never go to Mexico," he says, "but I want to feel like I could."

Most important, he'd be able to visit Iran, where his family still lives. His parents are growing older, and although Mr. Mehrmohammadi has two sisters, in Persian culture it is the son's responsibility to care for them.

Still, he hopes it doesn't come to that, to the point where he has to choose between his family by blood and his academic one, between the country where he was born and the one he has chosen. He likes his colleagues and enjoys his work. America has become his home, and, despite the political rhetoric, it still feels welcoming. Several times since the election, he says, he and his wife, who wears a *hijab*, have been approached in the shopping mall by strangers offering words of support.

Every day, then, Mr. Mehrmohammadi hopes for his green card. Every day, he tries not to grow discouraged. "I feel like I'm in debt to this country for giving me an education," he says. "But at the same time, things like this really eat at your energy."

AHMAD EZZEDDINE has been in this spot before. When he took the job leading international programs at Wayne State, a decade ago, its international-student numbers were plummeting. The university had once ranked among the top 25



TYLER STABLE FOR THE CHRONICLE

Mohammad Mehrmohammadi, a biomedical engineer originally from Iran, wonders if he should move his research to another country.

in foreign-student enrollment. Now it was hemorrhaging students.

The reason: Detroit was in free fall. Two of the Big Three car companies, a major draw for international students because of the promise of internships and even jobs after graduation, had declared bankruptcy. So, too, had the city itself, which had run out of money to provide even basic services like collecting garbage or policing the streets. The federal government bailed out the automakers. And the university stepped in, its officers patrolling beyond the campus boundaries into the Midtown neighborhood.

Still, the damage had been done. Without the lure of auto-industry jobs, international students stopped applying. Photos of a hollowed-out De-

troit were broadcast globally, leaving parents afraid for their children's safety. In a period when many American colleges were experiencing record growth in international enrollments, the number of foreign students at Wayne State tumbled by more than 6 percent.

Now Mr. Ezzeddine, who first came to Wayne State in 1989 as a young computer-science student from Lebanon, finds himself in this position again, except this time the challenges may be bigger and broader than Wayne State and Detroit.

If there's one area on campus that's likely to feel the full force of any drop in international enrollments, it's engineering. Three-quarters of graduate students in engineering at Wayne State are from overseas, and applications to those programs are down 40 percent from this time last year. It's too soon to know how many students will accept the university's offers of admission, but early signs aren't promising.

Nationally, an informal survey of engineering schools by *Science* magazine this winter found a widespread decline in applications from abroad; one dean called the drop-off "precipitous."

At the doctoral level, a slowdown from Iran in particular could have an outsized impact. Though Iran is just the 11th-largest source of international students at American colleges, only three other countries account for more Ph.D. students. Of the

79 Iranian students at Wayne State, most are doctoral candidates, and almost all are engineers.

Already the travel ban has left its mark. One promising Iranian Ph.D. student was preparing to come to Detroit to begin his studies when the executive order was announced. Without a valid visa, he was stranded, and the faculty member whose lab he was supposed to join has had to start from scratch to recruit a new student with the right skills and research interests.

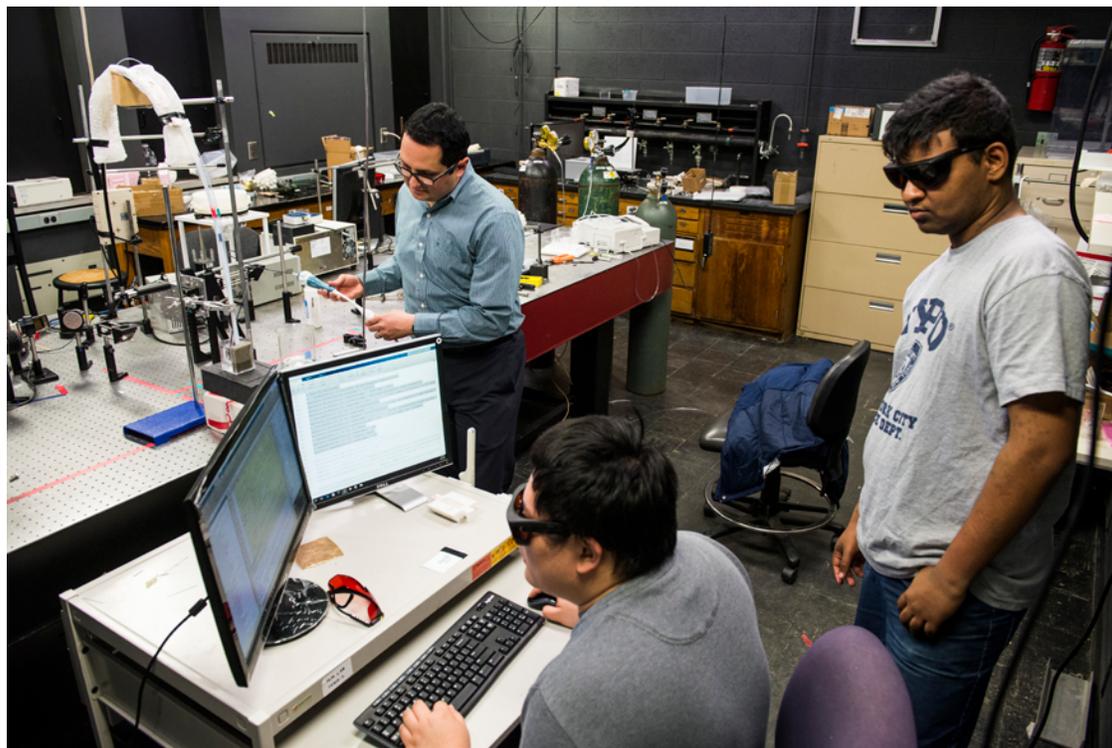
Given the time and effort it takes to recruit doctoral students, and the crucial role they play in research teams, Mr. Fotouhi, the engineering dean, says he fears that faculty members will pass over applicants from Iran and the other five countries included in the travel ban because of uncertainty over their visa status.

But the broader apprehensions about anti-foreigner backlash sparked by the travel ban could ripple far beyond those countries.

Indeed, it's India, not Iran, that is likeliest to keep Mr. Ezzeddine up at night. Second to China nationally, it is the largest source of international students at Wayne State. Renewed interest from Indian students is a major reason for Wayne State's rebound from its auto-bailout lows. Last year alone, Indian enrollment there climbed 17 percent.

But it remains to be seen whether Indian fami-

Mr. Mehrmohammadi (left) works with graduate students on research to improve ultrasound readings. His extended wait for a green card may force him to start looking for jobs outside the United States.



TYLER STABLE FOR THE CHRONICLE

Key Moments for Trump's Travel Bans

January 27: President Trump, in office for less than a week, signs an executive order imposing a prohibition on visitors, including students and those with a valid visa, from seven largely Muslim countries. The travel ban goes into effect immediately, even as some travelers are in midflight. Some are stuck in their country of origin, others are stranded in transit, and still others are detained when they arrive at American airports. Colleges tell students and scholars from the affected countries that they can continue their studies and their work but that they should not leave the country.

February 3: A federal-court judge in Seattle temporarily blocks the executive order, setting off a scramble for those trapped overseas to return to the United States. The ruling is on one of several legal challenges to the ban brought by state officials, civil-rights groups, universities, and others. The judge cites the ban's impact on public colleges, and on their students and faculty members, in his decision.

February 9: An appeals court refuses the Trump administration's request to reinstate the travel ban. In its order, the court, too, notes the harm to state universities and their students and researchers.

March 6: Mr. Trump approves a new ban. The reworked order differs from the first in several ways: It imposes a 90-day ban on issuance of new visas but permits free travel to those who hold current visas, and it delays the policy's effective date for 10 days. It makes clear that green-card holders, permanent residents, and dual nationals traveling on a visa from another country are exempt from restrictions. It also reduces by one the number of countries affected, excluding Iraq.

March 15: A second federal judge blocks the revised order before it can even take effect.

March 23: News outlets report that the U.S. Department of State has sent diplomatic cables to embassies around the world, ordering stricter vetting of visa applicants. The heightened screening applies to those seeking visas to travel to the United States from around the world and is not limited to the six countries included in the travel ban.

lies will continue to feel safe sending their children to study in the United States after an Indian engineer (and American university graduate) was shot and killed in Kansas, apparently because he was mistaken for an Iranian.

Of perhaps even greater concern may be the belief — widely reported as fact in the Indian media — that the travel ban is just the first step by the Trump administration to tighten American borders and close off the country's job market to outsiders. Getting on-the-job experience is paramount for Indian students, and they fear that the presi-

dent could take steps to reduce the availability of high-skilled work visas or to roll back a program that allows science and engineering students to stay and work in the United States for up to three years after graduation.

Indian students' paycheck priorities could affect the university's bottom line. The majority of Wayne State's Indian enrollments are at the master's-degree level, meaning that they pay their own way. Tuition and fees for a full-time engineering student add up to about \$30,000 annually.

Mr. Ezzeddine is trying to identify other promising markets, should numbers from India and Iran decline sharply. He and Mr. Fotouhi recently traveled to Brazil, but one possible source might be right here at home: Ninety-five percent of undergraduate engineering students are Americans, and applications this year increased by double digits. If more local students could be persuaded to pursue a master's degree, it could help offset potential international losses.

"Our current budget," Mr. Fotouhi says bluntly, "heavily depends on enrollment."

As Wayne State's president, M. Roy Wilson has to keep an eye on the bottom line. But it wasn't dollars and cents he was considering when he sent a message to the campus expressing concern about the travel ban's impact. He was thinking of the potential costs to the university in other ways, in terms of diversity, of openness, of the opportunity to meet people from other countries and different cultures.

"Engaging with the world, and each other," he wrote in the January 30 letter, "is integral to our mission of creating and advancing knowledge [and] preparing a diverse student body to thrive."

Mr. Wilson had a particularly personal view of what was at stake. When his wife, Jacqueline, started a program four years ago to combat homelessness among Wayne State students, her first volunteer was a student from Syria, named Selma. Both of the Wilsons got to know Selma well; an outstanding student, she eventually became head of all the organization's volunteers.

Across the country, many college presidents, of course, spoke out against the travel ban. Some even joined lawsuits challenging its constitutionality.

At Wayne State, the Student Senate joined Mr. Wilson in taking a public stand on the executive order, passing a resolution in support of the university's international students.

The possibility of being detained at the border spooked some students who, because of Wayne State's location, regularly commute from their homes in Canada. One medical student with Canadian and Iranian citizenship was visiting family in Toronto when the ban went into effect.

The language in the original ban did not make it clear whether dual citizens, or those born in the

affected countries with permanent residency in the United States, would be affected by the ban, and the Trump administration contradicted itself on whether they were included.

Frightened that he might not be able to return to the United States and his studies, the Canadian-Iranian student cut short his trip. Though he was able to get back without a problem, the episode made student leaders realize just how close to home the executive order hit for many of their classmates.

Anthony Eid, the senate's president, says the resolution, which also called on the university to take steps to assist affected students, passed unanimously, with almost no debate. "Our diversity," he says, "is what makes us."

Indeed, Wayne State's student body is diverse by a number of measures, reflective of the city around it: One in three undergraduates is from a racial minority, and half of all students qualify for Pell Grants, the federal aid program for needy students. Many are the children of immigrants. Mr. Eid's mother is from Iraq, his father from Lebanon.

Mr. Wilson, too, can trace his belief in inclusiveness to childhood. A military brat, he grew up around the world, particularly in Japan, and carries himself with the square-shouldered posture of a soldier. "Getting an understanding of different cultures, of how different people think, was enriching," he says. "I want that for our students."

Fostering diversity, including the goal that students graduate with global exposure and

skills, is a big part of Wayne State's strategic plan. Yet just 500 of the commuter school's students go abroad each year, fewer than 3 percent of all undergraduates.

Overseas students are likely to continue to be an important means of internationalizing the campus.

They, too, gain a deeper understanding of America after studying here, Mr. Wilson says.

Before the ban, the university was inching closer to its goal of having 10 percent of the student body be from other countries. At one point, back when Detroit was making news for all the wrong reasons, international enrollment had dropped as low as 5 percent, but for the past five years, there has been steady growth. After coming so close, Mr. Wilson says, it would be unfortunate to backslide.

Sentiment on campus, however, is not uniform. Some students would like Mr. Wilson to go further in challenging the policies of the Trump administration, such as declaring Wayne State a sanctuary campus. But others support the travel ban. A student emailed Mr. Wilson, complaining that one of his professors had been too outspoken in criticizing the executive order and in offering public support for those students affected.

Mr. Wilson took time in responding. Wayne State, he wrote, stands with all of its students, no matter where they're from: Iran, Syria, America.

The travel ban cuts against the values of the university, of higher education, he says. "Sometimes things are too important not to take a stand."

“Getting an understanding of different cultures, of how different people think. ... I want that for our students.”

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JASON REDMOND, AFP, GETTY IMAGES

Protesters gathered in Seattle in May as the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit prepared to hear arguments on President Trump's travel ban.

Colleges Grapple With How to Help Students Still Left in Limbo by Trump's Travel Ban

By KARIN FISCHER

PRESIDENT TRUMP announced his executive order barring travelers, including students, from a half-dozen predominantly Muslim countries shortly after he took office in late January.

But even in the dead of winter, officials at Ohio University were already thinking about summer. While students from the affected countries would be permitted, under the order, to complete their studies, if they went home to visit family and friends, they might not be able to return to the United States. So Ohio administrators began drawing up a plan to offer summer housing to students stranded by the travel ban.

The university is not alone. The academic year may be winding down, but colleges still find themselves grappling with fallout from the ban. Some, like Ohio, are providing housing, while others are scrambling to help international students, who are restricted from working off campus, find on-campus jobs or internships. Many have stepped up their summertime programming to serve unusually large populations of foreign students who have elected not to travel home between semesters.

Federal courts have temporarily blocked enactment of the executive order, as they hear cases challenging its constitutionality. Although citizens from the countries included in the ban — Iran,

Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen — are once again legally allowed to enter the United States, many colleges have cautioned students from those nations about traveling abroad over the summer. The University at Buffalo, for one, sent an email earlier this month urging students to “think carefully” about foreign travel since the outcome and timing of the courts’ decision is unknown, and a reinstatement of the ban could leave them stuck overseas.

“It is sad and unprecedented that we have to discourage our students from traveling outside the country,” Stephen C. Dunnett, vice provost for international education, said in an email, “but this is the nature of the situation we find ourselves in.”

Buffalo is not providing summer housing, Mr. Dunnett says, because most of those affected by the executive order are graduate students who already have off-campus housing and assistantships or scholarships that provide year-round support. And many students, at Buffalo and elsewhere, had probably not planned to travel over the summer anyway — the largest group of affected students, those from Iran, are typically issued only single-entry visas, meaning they have to reapply for a visa if they leave the country. As a result, many Iranian students never return home during their studies.

Still, a number of colleges have stepped forward to provide emergency housing. Ithaca College, in Upstate New York, approved an exemption from its usual requirement that those staying on campus over the summer be enrolled in classes or be working for the college full time. Students from affected countries will have housing fees waived, while other international students can apply to stay for the summer or to return early. (The U.S. Department of State in March ordered stricter vetting of visa applicants from around the world, not just those from the countries included in the travel ban.)

‘TO HELP MITIGATE THE FEAR’

At the University of California at Berkeley, the board of the International House, a nonprofit residence and program center for international students and scholars associated with the university, voted to provide up to two dozen scholarships to cover summertime room and board for those whose education or research could be interrupted by the travel ban or by civil strife in their home

countries. “There are so many unknowns,” says Hans C. Giesecke, the International House’s executive director. The housing aid is “designed to help mitigate the fear.” Depending on financial need and duration of stay, the scholarships could cover costs up to \$5,500 per person.

At Ohio University, room and board for affected students is being covered by its Parents and Family Endowment, a fund for students in need, meaning that no taxpayer or tuition money will be spent on the summer housing. Because the IRS categorizes these accommodations as a taxable benefit, the university is required to withhold taxes for each student, says Jason Pina, vice president of student affairs. But Athens Friends of International Students, a group of faculty and community members, has stepped forward to cover the taxes for the students.

So far, 14 students have requested housing or dining assistance, Mr. Pina says, although he expects that number could rise, as some students are going home with friends or staying with extended family within the United States for the first part of the summer. The university has about 100 students directly affected by the travel ban.

Housing hasn’t been an issue at American University, in Washington, but employment has been. Visa rules prohibit foreign students from working off campus, so those looking for a paycheck to help cover their living expenses must find work with the university. Competition has been high for a limited number of internships and on-campus jobs, says Fanta Aw, interim vice president for campus life.

It’s not just students from the six countries who have decided to stick close to campus over the summer, Ms. Aw says. “The reality is that the executive order has had a chilling effect on international students in general.”

The University of Delaware has started an emergency fund to help international students with unexpected financial needs, and Ravi Ammigan, interim associate deputy provost for international programs, says none of the three initial applications to the fund came from students from countries directly affected by the travel ban.

The university’s international office has been reminding students who have stayed for the summer of its counseling and advising services. It’s also been trying to keep up a sense of community for those far from home. One of the next events on its calendar: an ice-cream social.

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AP PHOTO/TED S. WARREN

Protesters demonstrate against President Trump's travel ban outside a federal courthouse in Seattle in May. In an order on June 26, the U.S. Supreme Court said students at American colleges from six Muslim-majority countries can enter the United States. But prospective students still could be affected by the ban.

International Students Dodge Trump's Partly Reinstated Travel Ban, but Concerns Persist

By KARIN FISCHER

THE U.S. Supreme Court agreed on Monday to allow a limited version of President Trump's travel ban to take effect but said that visitors with ties to the United States — a group that the court specified includes foreign college students — will be allowed to enter the country.

Despite that exemption, some legal experts and educators warned that the court's action may affect prospective international students who are in the process of applying for a visa.

The move to reinstate, in part, Mr. Trump's executive order barring travelers from a half-dozen predominantly Muslim countries came as the

nation's highest court agreed to hear arguments this fall about whether the measure is legal and constitutional.

A pair of federal appeals courts had blocked the ban, which was first announced in January, less than a week after the president took office, and was later issued in revised form. The Trump administration had asked the Supreme Court to lift the lower courts' injunctions preventing the ban from being carried out. A ruling in the two cases, Nos. 16-1436 (16A1190) and 16-1540 (16A1191), may not come until next June.

In an unsigned order, the court permitted the ban — which applies to citizens of Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen — to go into effect, but carved out a critical exemption for “foreign nationals who have a credible claim of a bona fide relationship with a person or entity in the United States.” And the justices spelled out that a student admitted to an American college or university would have just such a relationship.

“Students will be able to come and study,” said Allan Wernick, director of Citizenship Now, a legal-aid clinic run by the City University of New York. “I don't see international students having any problem whatsoever.”

But other experts and educators are not as confident. Stephen Yale-Loehr, a professor of law at Cornell University who specializes in immigration law, said that while the order's language will permit current students from the six countries to leave the United States for the summer and return for fall classes, he is concerned that the situation for new students, who have not yet begun their studies and are applying for a visa, could be less clear.

The court's order does not detail how the federal government is to determine if travelers have connections to the United States that would meet the standards it set out.

Will the burden be on visa applicants or on the government to demonstrate a “bona fide relationship”? Mr. Yale-Loehr asked. Will colleges' acceptance letters be sufficient to prove students' ties to the United States?

Colleges should be prepared to go to court on behalf of students who are not issued visas or who are denied entry to the United States, Mr. Yale-Loehr said.

A 'BONA FIDE' RELATIONSHIP

Erwin Chemerinsky, a prominent legal scholar, agreed that the impact of the court's order could differ between students who have already attended college in the United States and those who have only been admitted.

Students who have already attended a college or university should pass the court's test for having established a “bona fide” relationship, said Mr.

Chemerinsky, who will become dean of the University of California at Berkeley's law school on July 1.

Mr. Chemerinsky, speaking at the annual conference of the National Association of College and University Attorneys, in Chicago, said there may be more of a question about students who have yet to attend college in the United States, but an offer of admission may still be enough to meet the standard.

And Esther D. Brimmer, executive director of Nafsa: Association of International Educators, decried the court's distinction between travelers with

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ties to the United States and those without firm relationships in this country.

“Individuals from the affected countries with no ties to the United States will be subject to the ban on the grounds that a lack of connection to the United States somehow provides evidence of a national-security threat,” Ms. Brimmer said in a written statement. “If that is the case, then we should be making every effort to create connections and ties through robust international exchange and travel.”

Colleges, meanwhile, are scrambling, yet again, to provide guidance to international students and scholars.

William I. Brustein, vice president for global strategies and international affairs at West Virginia University, said that although he was pleased that the court had exempted students from the reinstated ban, he worried that new requirements to demonstrate ties could increase visa-processing backlogs and lengthen wait times for students applying to study in the United States.

“The big problem could be consular officers' workload increasing with the vetting of each applicant,” Mr. Brustein said, adding that he was worried that entering students might not be able to get their visas in time for the start of the fall semester. “The advice we're going to give to students is to start the process of getting their visa early.”

Mr. Brustein said he was disappointed in the Supreme Court's decision to hear the travel-ban case, rather than to allow the two appeals-court rulings, both of which froze Mr. Trump's executive order, to stand.

Ahmad Ezzeddine, associate vice provost for educational outreach and international programs at Wayne State University, in Michigan, noted that this point in the summer is a critical time in the visa process for newly admitted students, who typically are now submitting to in-person interviews with consular officials as part of their application. "The next few weeks will be telling," Mr. Ezzeddine said, to see how the ban will be "operationalized."

'A CLEAR VICTORY'

In a written statement, President Trump called the court's decision to take up the case, while partly reinstating the ban, "a clear victory for our national security."

The administration had argued that a 90-day halt in travel from the named countries was necessary in order to improve the government's screening and vetting procedures.

But opponents derided the executive order as a thinly disguised "Muslim ban," which Mr. Trump had called for during last year's presidential-election campaign. Federal courts blocked the initial order, which also covered travelers from Iraq, as well as a reworked order, issued in March.

Key to at least one of the cases was the argument that the ban was doing serious harm to colleges and their students, researchers, and faculty members. While the original ban stranded some students and professors overseas, many more were afraid to travel outside the United States, worried

that they would not be able to re-enter the country.

Marty Brown, executive director of the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, which had made a declaration as part of Washington State's legal challenge to the original ban — one of the cases that will be heard by the Supreme Court — said in a written statement that the system "affirms its commitment to student diversity."

"Diversity provides a wealth of perspectives and solutions for the global world in which we all live," Mr. Brown said. "We are proud of our students and staff members, who come from all over the world."

In fact, though, the share of students who come from the countries included in the ban is fairly small, just 15,000 out of more than a million international students currently at American colleges.

But educators are concerned that the measure's impact is reverberating far beyond the named countries, sending a message abroad that the United States under President Trump is a less hospitable place to study.

Michael Armini, senior vice president for external affairs at Northeastern University, one of a number of colleges that have submitted legal briefs in support of challenges to the ban, said the Boston institution worries about the potential ripple effects of the measure on international-student interest.

"We remain concerned," Mr. Armini said, "that the chilling effect of the executive order — and the possibility it may be expanded or made permanent — will curtail the nation's ability to attract the world's best and brightest people."

Eric Kelderman contributed to this article from Chicago.

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