



Immigration Updates



Inside this issue

Immigration Updates	1
Immigration Office Announcement	2
Reminders	
Immigration Spotlight: What is an EAD card?	3
Arkansas Gems: Lost Valley Trail	4
Upcoming Holiday	5

International Travel Still Not Recommended for Foreign Nationals

Due to continued U.S. embassy closures and international travel restrictions, we strongly recommend that foreign nationals do not travel internationally unless there is an emergency. If you do need to travel, please contact our office for further advice. For more information about traveling during the pandemic, please review the travel guidelines and restrictions at the sites linked below.

- [U.S. Department of State website](#)
- [CDC Travel Recommendations for International Travel](#)
- [UAMS Travel Guidelines](#)

Biometrics Requirement Suspended for H-4 Applicants

Effective May 17, 2021, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) temporarily suspended the biometrics submission requirement for certain applicants filing Form I-539, Application To Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status, requesting an extension of stay in or change of status to H-4 nonimmigrant status. USCIS will allow adjudications for those applications to proceed based on biographic information and related background checks, without capturing fingerprints and a photograph. This suspension will apply through May 17, 2023, unless otherwise ended by DHS. For more information visit the [announcement on the USCIS Website](#).

Reminder to Report Position Detail Changes to the Immigration Services Office

Employer-sponsored nonimmigrant statuses, including **H-1B, J-1, O-1, and TN**, are filed for a specific position, location, and individual. If any detail of the position changes, the UAMS Immigration Services Office must review the changes to determine if an amendment or other adjustment to the person's sponsored status needs to be updated.

If you have a foreign national employee in your department on **H-1B, J-1, O-1, or TN status**, OR if you are a foreign national on one of these status types, notify the Immigration Services Office *before* any of the following changes occurs:

- Change in job title/rank (including promotions) or transfers to a different position or department
- Change in FTE (full-time to part-time, and vice versa)
- Any decrease in salary, or significant increase in salary (more than 25%)
- Change or addition of worksite location
- Resignation or termination of employee

Notify our office by emailing AskImmigration@uams.edu.

Change of Address Reminder

Have you moved recently? Be sure to update the new address in both USCIS and UAMS databases.

USCIS: Fill out the [AR-11, Alien's Change of Address Card](#).

UAMS: Login to [Employee Self Service \(ESS\)](#) ⇒ Personal Information ⇒ Personal Profile.

According to U.S. federal regulation 8 C.F.R. 265.1, all changes of address should be reported to USCIS within 10 days after moving. By updating the address in UAMS system, it can ensure that you receive important benefit and tax documentation from Office of Human Resources.



Changes to the UAMS H-4 Dependent Filing Process Effective 8/1/2021

The UAMS Immigration Services Office will no longer assist with preparing Forms I-539 and I-765 for H-4 dependents of H-1B employees beginning August 1st, 2021. Form I-129 petitions filed to USCIS for H-1B employees are employer-sponsored matters requiring employer consent and signature. By contrast, H-4 applications are personal to the dependent applicants and are not employer-sponsored, and therefore should be prepared and filed by the applicant. This process change will allow H-4 applicants to conveniently submit Form I-539 online if filing for only one person. It will also ensure that the H-4 applicants receive any communication regarding their H-4 processes directly from USCIS, and will reduce UAMS’s liability in application processes that are not employer-sponsored.

If you are an H-1B employee who has a spouse or children on H-4 status, you will be provided with the [H-4 Information Document and the Form I-539 Consent and Statement of Understanding Form](#) at the time of your H-1B filing. This document contains tips for preparing Form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status, and includes instructions on how to file this form for your dependents. You may prepare Form I-539 and provide the signed forms, filing fees, and support documents to Immigration Services Office to be mailed along with your H-1B petition if desired. Alternatively, the H-4 application could also be filed separately from your H-1B petition, either by mail, online, or through an immigration attorney at the cost of the employee.

Contact the Immigration Services Office at AskImmigration@uams.edu or 686-8132 if you have any questions.

J-1 Scholars Virtual Conversation

Our next quarterly virtual meeting for J-1 Scholars will be at 2pm on August 10th. We will cover basic J-1 policies and explain the different parts of Form DS-2019. We will also set aside time for Q & A session. An invitation email will be sent to all J-1 scholars.



Immigration Virtual Office Hour

Sign up for our virtual office hour if you have immigration-related inquiries, such as when to initiate your H-1B extension petition, what to do if your passport is expiring, or how to start a green card process. All conversations are private. The next virtual office hour is August 2nd (10:00-11:00 AM), August 31st (9:00-10:00 AM), and September 23rd (2:00-3:00 PM). Make an appointment now at this [link](#).



Scam Alert

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) has been made aware of a spoofing scam involving individuals using the SEVP Response Center (SRC) phone numbers (703-603-3400 and 800-892-4829) and claiming to be SRC representatives. The fraudulent callers are inquiring about Form I-94 documents and asking students/scholars to provide information regarding monetary transactions. Please be aware that SEVP officials will NEVER ask stakeholders to provide credit/debit card/gift card numbers, wire transfers, or bank routing numbers, or to make bitcoin deposits for any purpose. NEVER divulge personal or financial information to

Apply for U.S. Social Security Number

Due to COVID-19, the Social Security Administration Office (SSA Office) in Little Rock is open by appointment only. Here are some important tips for you to apply for a Social Security Number (SSN):

- You can apply for the SSN after you have been present in the U.S. for at least 10 days.
- If you are on a J-1 visa, please make sure your record is validated in SEVIS before you start the application.
- Make sure to put a valid U.S. address on the SSN application form because the Social Security card will be mailed to you at that address.
- Do not mail original documents to the SSA Office.
- You must request an appointment by phone before you go for the appointment in person.

Arkansas Gems: Lost Valley Trail



Lost Valley Trail is located near the Boxley Valley Historic District on Hwy. 43 and is the most popular hike at Buffalo National River. The trail leads along Clark Creek, past several natural bridges, to the end destination of Eden Falls and Cob Cave. It is an easy to moderate hike with occasional benches on the first portion of the trail for resting and watching wildlife. The trail is relatively short (about 2.3 miles), giving you plenty of time for exploring the caves and rock formations.

Lost Valley Trail leaves the parking area and gently winds up the box canyon, passing beneath groves of American beech trees. The trail leads you to an emerald-blue pool of water with an 8-ft waterfall flowing out of a small opening in the bluff, known as the Natural Bridge. The trail continues up stone steps, winding along the Clark Creek drainage giving way to a massive 200-foot bluff shelter, known as Cob Cave.



The gem of the hike is Eden Falls. The picturesque Eden Falls cascades 53 feet over towering cliffs offering visitors a firsthand view of what the Ozark Mountains have to offer. Visitors can either loop back around to the main trail or continue on a spur trail to the peak of Eden Falls. The trail leading to Eden Falls is rugged and steep; visitors should use extreme caution when taking this route. The trail winds up the bluff line to a 200-ft cave and then gives way to a 25-foot waterfall inside. A flashlight and some agility will be needed to view the waterfall in the cave. The trail ends here at the mouth of the cave.

Ling Tang, HR Senior Consultant – Immigration Services, and her son Lincoln hiked the Lost Valley Trail two weeks ago with their IFO (International Friends Outreach) friends. The view was fantastic. They found that the most scenic area of the trail is more demanding but worth it. This area is a very popular hiking destination on the weekends, so it is best visited during the week if you want a little solitude. There are restrooms at the Lost Valley Trailhead.

For more information about the Lost Valley Trail and Buffalo National River, please visit: <https://www.nps.gov/buff/index.htm>



Upcoming Holiday

Monday, September 6, 2021

Labor Day
(UAMS holiday)



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