

## UAMS Immigration Services Update on Executive Orders Affecting Immigration – 1/28/2025

President Trump signed several executive orders pertaining to immigration matters and others that may affect immigration processes on his first day in office. Below and attached are brief overviews of relevant immigration-related orders. **As of yet, there have been no changes to federal regulations, and we do not anticipate an immediate impact to our international employees or students due to these orders.** However, we are closely monitoring the situation and will continue to provide updates as information changes.

**At this time, we strongly encourage international employees, scholars, and students to [limit international travel](#).**

**We also recommend that noncitizens should carry documentation at all times to show they are lawfully present in the United States.** This documentation may include your I-94 showing lawful entry into the U.S., an I-797 approval notice showing approval of an H-1B, O-1, TN, or E-3 petition or change of nonimmigrant status, an Employment Authorization Document (EAD), Form I-20 or Form DS-2019, permanent resident card (Green card) for permanent residents, or other documents that confirm your immigration status and expiration date. [Find additional information here](#).

### Summary of Executive Orders Affecting Immigration

- **Potential Travel Bans and “Extreme Vetting”** - President Trump has signed an executive order mandating stricter security screening and vetting for foreign nationals seeking U.S. visas, entry, or immigration benefits. The order directs the Secretary of State, in collaboration with the Departments of Homeland Security and Justice, as well as the Director of National Intelligence, to create standards and procedures for screening and vetting applicants for visas and immigration benefits. **As of now, no travel ban has been put in place. However, we are still recommending nonimmigrants limit international travel when possible, as this order could increase wait times for the issuance of visas and the approval of green cards and other immigration benefits.**
- **Limitations on Birthright Citizenship** - President Trump has issued an executive order aimed at imposing restrictions on birthright citizenship in the United States for specific groups of children born on or after February 19, 2025. Under the order, children born in the U.S. would no longer automatically receive citizenship if neither of their parents are either a legal permanent resident or U.S. citizen. This executive order has already been challenged in federal district court and **as of January 23, a federal judge issued a temporary restraining order (“TRO”) blocking the implementation of the executive order.**
- **Federal Hiring Freeze** - With the Hiring Freeze Executive Order President Trump has ordered that, with certain specific exceptions, all federal agencies must cease making any new hires pending a review by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. **The hiring freeze will likely result in extended delays in the processing and adjudication of all applications for immigration benefits.**

- **America First Trade Policy (USMCA agreement)** - Among other actions, this Executive Order calls on the U.S. Trade Representative to commence public consultations ahead of the 2026 review of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and assess the impact of the USMCA on American workers, farmers, ranchers, service providers, and other businesses. **The TN nonimmigrant status, for Canadian and Mexican citizens in certain professions, is issued based upon the USMCA, so changes to the USMCA might affect the eligibility of that visa category. No changes have been made as of yet.**

As always, you may contact UAMS Immigration Services at [AskImmigration@uams.edu](mailto:AskImmigration@uams.edu) if you have questions or concerns.