

# Expansion of National Interest Exception Travel Students, Business Travelers, Investors, and Academics

## Eligible Travelers

On July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Washington announced that certain travelers from Schengen area countries could resume traveling to the United States if, as determined by a Consular Officer, they qualify as a National Interest Exception (NIE) to President Trump's March 11, 2020 Presidential Proclamation that suspended routine travel from the Schengen Area to the United States. Those traveling as students (F1 and M1), researchers (certain J1 programs), investors (E2), or business travel (B1) may be eligible for the exception. Effective July 15, 2020, the following travelers may apply to be considered for the NIE:

- **Economic:** Temporary travel that provides a substantial economic benefit to the U.S. economy. Examples may include:
  - **Technical experts and specialists** to install, service, maintain, or receive training for vessels, machinery and other specialized equipment used by U.S. and foreign firms with a substantial investment in the United States. Travel is temporary in nature and of a defined period.
  - **Senior-level managers and executives**, and their dependents, who provide strategic direction necessary for the success of the company or venture.
  - **Professional athletes, dependents, and essential staff** who enter the United States to participate in major sporting events, which bolster the U.S. economy.
- **Investors:** Travel in connection with investment or trade in the U.S. economy that generates a substantial economic impact, including **investors** and **treaty-traders** and the senior-level employees who provide strategic direction or expertise essential to the success of the investment, and their dependents.
- **Students:** All students, and their dependents, traveling to the United States to:
  - Pursue a full course of study per INA 101(a)(15)(F);
  - Pursue a full course of study per INA 101(a)(15)(M); or
  - Participate in an exchange program as a bona fide student.
- **Academics:** All exchange visitors and their dependents traveling to the United States under INA 101(a)(15)(J) in the following categories:
  - Professors
  - Research Scholars
  - Short Term Scholars
  - Specialists

## Travelers with Valid Visas or ESTA

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P cvkqpcn'k'pvtguv'Gzegr vqpp0"Vq'f q'uq."vtcxgrgtu'o wuv'ugpf "j g'hqmqy kpi 'kphqto cvkqp'cmqpi 'y kj "  
uwr r qt vki 'f qewo gpvcvqp"vq'zzzzB ucvgf qx""Rrgcug"cmqy "j tgg'dwukpguu'f c{ u"  
vq'tgxkgy "{ qwt'f qewo gpw'cpf 's wcrkh'ecvqp0"l qw'y km'dg'pqrk'kf "d{ "g/o cknk{ qw'o ggv'j g'P KG"  
tgs wkt go gpw0"Rtkpv'qww'j cv'g/o ckn'cu'eqphkto cvkqp'qh{ qwt'gzege vgf "ucwuu0

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## Travelers Without a Visa

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gzege vgf "vtcxgn'ucwugu'uj qwr'f 'cr r n' 'hqt'j gk'xkuc'cu'pqtto cr0"Rrgcug'xkuk'v'j g"  
qt'vtcxgn'ucvgf qx"vq'dgi kp"l qwt'cr r rkecvqp'r tqegu0""

## Limitations of NIE Travel

Cmj qwi j "vtcxgrgtu"cr r tqxgf "hqt'c'pcv'kqpcn'k'pvtguv'gzege vqpp'hqt "economic and investor"tgrcvgf "  
vtcxgn'y km'dg'kuwgf 'hwm'xcrlf k{ 'xlucu."j g'gzege vqpp'ku'xcrlf "qpn' 'hqt'52'f c{ u'htqo "j g'f cvg'qh"  
cr r tqxcr'cpf 'ku'xcrlf "hqt'c'ukpi rg'gpvt { "v'j g'Wpkgf "Ucvgu0" Cp'kpf kxkf wcr'y j q'f gr ct w'j g"  
Wpkgf "Ucvgu'cpf 'y kuj gu'vq'tgwtp'o wuv'dg'tg/cuuguugf "hqt'c'pcv'kqpcn'k'pvtguv'gzege vqpp0""

**Students and academic researchers** f q'pqv'p'ggf "vq'dg'tg/cr r tqxgf "hqt'gcej "gpvt { "v'j g'Wpkgf "  
Ucvgu0'H'cpf 'L'xkuc'vtcxgrgtu'ctg'tgo kpf gf "j cv'j g{ 'o wuv'ukm'o ggv'cm'Uwf gpv'cpf 'Gzej cpi g"  
Xkukqt'Rtqi tco "UGXR+'tgs wkt go gpw0

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*All individuals are reminded that their admission remains subject to a determination by Customs and Border Protection officers at ports of entry and that they may be subject to a 14-day quarantine upon arrival. DHS requires travelers using a NIE waiver to fly into one of 15 specifically designated airports found [here](#).*

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