

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Visas July 2020

Question 1: Is the U.S. Embassy in Oslo processing visas?

A: In response to significant worldwide challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of State has temporarily suspended routine visa services at all U.S. Embassies and Consulates. We have canceled all routine immigrant and nonimmigrant visa appointments as of March 20, 2020, but will continue to provide emergency and mission-critical visa services as resources and local conditions allow. We will resume routine visa services as soon as possible but are unable to provide a specific date at this time.

Question 2: Am I allowed to travel from Norway to United States for tourism or business with the Visa Waiver Program or a B1/B2 visa?

A: Unfortunately, not at this time. Entry of foreign nationals who were physically present within the following list of countries within 14 days prior to their entry or attempted entry into the United States is suspended, per Presidential Proclamations 9984, 9992, 9993, 9996 and the subsequent proclamation issued May 24, 2020:

- Brazil
- The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, excluding overseas territories outside of Europe;
- The Republic of Ireland;
- The 26 countries that comprise the Schengen Area (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, **Norway**, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland)
- The Islamic Republic of Iran;
- The People's Republic of China, not including the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau

There are certain exceptions to the suspension of entry, including exceptions for U.S. lawful permanent residents and certain family members of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents, among other exceptions listed in the proclamations.

Question 2: I will start my education in the United States in fall 2020. Can I apply for a F-1/J-1 visa?

A: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation and travel restrictions imposed by the Presidential Proclamations, U.S. Embassy in Oslo has suspended all routine visa operations until further notice. We are taking this issue seriously and are seeking ways to ensure that our aspiring and returning students will receive priority attention once routine visa operations can resume. The Embassy will publicize any announcement on the resumption of student visa interviews once information is available.

Question 3: I already have a J-1/F-1 visa, can I travel to United States?

A: Due to the suspension of entry, it is not possible to travel directly to the United States from Norway, even with a valid J1/F1 visa. For more information, please see answer to Question 2.

Question 4: I am an U.S. Citizen/Legal Permanent Resident, can I travel to United States?

A: Yes. As a U.S. Citizen/Legal Permanent Resident, you may travel to the United States at any time, as long as you are in a possession of a valid U.S. passport/Green Card, subject to [quarantine conditions](#).

Question 5: I am married to a U.S. Citizen/Legal Permanent Resident, can I travel to the United States?

A: Yes. The following individuals are exempted from the travel restrictions imposed by the Presidential Proclamations and can travel to the United States at any time:

- Any alien who is the spouse of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident;
- Any alien who is the parent or legal guardian of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, provided that the U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident is unmarried and under the age of 21;
- Any alien who is the sibling of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, provided that both are unmarried and under the age of 21;
- Any alien who is the child, foster child, or ward of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, or who is a prospective adoptee seeking to enter the United States pursuant to the IR-4 or IH-4 visa classifications;

Please be prepared to show evidence of the qualifying relationship at the U.S. Port of Entry (such as birth certificate or marriage certificate), in addition to a copy of your family member's U.S. passport.

Question 6: I am a crewmember and I am scheduled to work onboard a vessel in the United States. Can I apply for a visa?

A: Yes. An alien traveling as a nonimmigrant pursuant to a C-1, D, or C-1/D nonimmigrant visa as a crewmember or an alien otherwise traveling to the United States as air or sea crew is eligible to travel at this time. Crewmembers engaged in lightering, Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) activity, wind farm activity, private air/sea crew and other similar crewmember activities can also be issued B-1 visas. You may apply for a visa here: <http://cdn.ustraveldocs.com/no/no-niv-visaapply.asp>.

Question 7: I own an apartment/house in the United States, am I allowed to travel?

A: Unfortunately, no. Unless you belong to one of the exempted categories, you can't travel to the United States directly from Norway until the suspension of entry is lifted.

Question 8: I have H1B/H2B/L visa, can I travel to United States?

A: No. On Monday, June 22, 2020, President Trump signed a proclamation suspending entry into the United States of certain nonimmigrants who present a risk to the U.S. labor market following the coronavirus outbreak. The proclamation suspends entry of new nonimmigrants in the following categories: H1B, H2B, L and J (for aliens participating in intern, trainee, teacher, camp counsellor, au pair, or summer work travel program) until December 31, 2020. **Visas issued prior to June 24, 2020 are not subject to the proclamation.**

Question 9: I will start my exchange (J-1) program in the United States this fall, can I apply for a J1-visa?

A: Once the U.S. Embassy in Oslo has resumed its routine visa operations, you may apply for a J-1 visa, as long as you are not participating in intern, trainee, teacher, camp counsellor, au pair, or summer work travel program.

Question 10: Which travel restrictions are still in effect?

A: The following travel restrictions are in effect right now:

- [Proclamation - Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Certain Additional Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#)
- [Proclamation Suspending Entry of Immigrants Who Present Risk to the U.S. Labor Market During the Economic Recovery Following the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)
- [Proclamation Suspending Entry of Aliens Who Present a Risk to the U.S. Labor Market Following the Coronavirus Outbreak](#)

Question 11: If I can provide a negative COVID-19 test result, can I enter the United States?

A: The Presidential Proclamations do not include an exception on the basis of negative test results. Please review each Proclamation in full for details of possible exemptions.

Question 12: When will I be able to travel to the United States?

A: You may travel when the travel restrictions applicable to you have been lifted. Please monitor our website regularly for updates regarding travel suspension and status of visa operations: <http://cdn.ustraveldocs.com/no/>.

Question 13: I am engaged to a U.S. citizen. Can I travel to visit him/her?

A: Unfortunately, there is no exception for fiancés of U.S. citizens. Your travel will need to be postponed until current travel restrictions are lifted.