

Visa Revocations – What to Know and Do

Basic Visa Information:

Some of our students are foreign citizens who are in the U.S. on student visas, typically F-1 or J-1 visas. Visas are official U.S. documents authorizing a foreign citizen to request legal entry into the United States for a specific purpose and during a specified period of time. While visas grant permission to seek entry, the final decision to admit any foreign citizen will be made by U.S. immigration officials at the border entry point at the time of arrival. Your visa may provide for a single or multiple entry requests during the duration of the visa.

Revocation means that your visa is no longer valid and cannot be used to re-enter the U.S. Visas may be revoked at the U.S. government's discretion. However, this typically occurs only under extreme circumstances.

Visa Revocation Impact on Status:

If your visa is revoked, it does not impact your F-1 or J-1 status. You may continue to live in the U.S. and study at your educational institution of record so long as you maintain your applicable student eligibility materials, such as your I-20 or DS-2019 form.

Visa revocation itself does not result in deportation, but if your visa is revoked based on your alleged actions or activities, you may be at a higher risk for further immigration action. If removed/deported following a visa revocation, you will need to apply for a new visa to attempt re-entry. At the discretion of the U.S. government, such requests may not be denied.

A Removal Order is the mechanism through which an immigration judge finds that an admitted foreign citizen has committed an act that makes that individual deportable. If you are or become subject to a Removal Order, you may be detained and subject to deportation.

Impact on Travel:

If your visa is revoked and you voluntarily leave the U.S. to travel home or to another country, you will have to apply for a new visa prior to attempting to re-enter the U.S. Visa revocation may make obtaining a new visa difficult or impossible.

Seeking legal counsel:

Visa revocations and other immigration actions are challenging and case-specific situations that may create unintended legal and personal issues. While your international student advisor is here to help, UAA/UAF/UAS recommends that students also obtain personal legal advice from an experienced immigration attorney about any legal questions or concerns with their visa status, travel options, and their continuing or remaining eligibility for admission to the United States.