



MESSAGE TO VISITING SCHOLARS AND FOREIGN FULBRIGHT STUDENTS

Policies and actions related to COVID-19 testing, return travel, and recent Presidential Proclamations to ensure smooth travels for our participants

For both new and continuing Fulbrighters who are traveling to the United States:

Current CDC guidance (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel-during-covid19.html>) mandates that all air passengers coming to the United States, **including fully vaccinated people, are required** to have a negative COVID-19 test result no more than three (3) days before travel or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 in the past three (3) months **before** they board a flight to the United States.

Recent Presidential Proclamations suspend and limit the entry into the United States of certain non-immigrant visa holders who are from, visited or transited through various countries in the 14 days preceding their entry into the United States. These include all countries of the Schengen area of Europe, plus Brazil, China, India, Iran, Ireland, South Africa and the UK. Anyone from, or who has traveled to or through, (including airport transit) any of these countries needs a **National Interest Exception (NIE)** to accompany their J-visa. Each individual must apply for an NIE at an appropriate U.S. Consulate overseas.

- A letter is provided to all new Fulbright foreign/visiting participants for them to carry in their carry-on luggage when traveling to the United States. They should present it to their airline and/or U.S. Customs and Border Patrol if questioned about their admissibility to the country.

For foreign students and visiting scholars who are completing their programs in the U.S. and who are making arrangements for their final departures:

COVID-19 testing:

- Any COVID-19 testing required for departure from the U.S. must be arranged by the participant and should be available free or low-cost.
- The \$500 ASPE COVID-19 testing benefit is available for use by the participant.

Return Travel:

- Fulbright-administered grantees will not have access to IIE's travel agency and will need to book their own return tickets.

For **Fulbrighters whose programs will continue in the fall**, we are strongly discouraging international travel over the summer, since COVID-19 continues to disrupt normal operations and situations can change rapidly.