

The Global Glance

A Monthly Update from the Office of Global Engagement
February 2021



Visa/Immigration

Tax time for international students and scholars

By now, most people who work in the U.S. have received at least one tax document, typically a W-2 wage and tax statement. There are several different tax documents issued by employers, banks and other financial institutions which include 1099 forms, the 1042-S or a number of other types of forms. For international students and scholars, typically with F-1 and J-1 visas, there are always questions about how to file required tax documents each year, even if there is no income to report. UNMC's Office of Global Engagement has been offering tax assistance to the international population for more than 15 years. While there are countless options available for U.S. citizens and residents for tax purposes, those who are considered non-residents for tax purposes, including most international students and a significant number of research scholars, the filing requirements are different. All international students and scholars sponsored for their visa status by UNMC should watch their email for an announcement in the coming weeks about how tax assistance will be offered this year. This announcement will include how to determine whether someone is a non-resident or a resident for tax purposes and if non-residency is determined, then instructions in the email should be followed to arrange a virtual tax appointment for one-on-one assistance. For those who meet the definition of residency for tax purposes, any of the commercially available services and software can be used to help with filing taxes.

Economic stimulus payments

There are likely questions about economic stimulus payments and whether someone qualifies for this type of payment or not. To clarify briefly, these payments are being offered only to residents for tax purposes and so most international students and many international scholars will not qualify to receive these payments. If a student or scholar has received a payment and has a question about whether they should have received it, please send a query to Dan Teet. There have been instances of payments being made to non-residents in error, and there has been guidance issued on what to do if that happens.

Essentially, it will mean returning the payment or facing a potential tax penalty in future years.

Contact: Dan Teet, dteet@unmc.edu.

Change of policy for permanent residents extending Green Cards

Beginning in January 2021, the USCIS replaced the sticker that is currently issued to lawful permanent residents (LPRs) to extend the validity of their Form I-551, Permanent Resident Card with a revised Form I-797, Notice of Action. LPRs file Form I-90, Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card, when their Green Cards expire or are about to expire. The revised Form I-797 notice will serve as a receipt notice for the Form I-90.

Presentation for sponsoring employees for permanent residence

Each year, UNMC sponsors employees for permanent residence. This presentation will be held on Thurs., Feb. 18, at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom and will provide information on the various avenues of this type of sponsorship, as well as a specific process for each type of sponsorship and how it affects current sponsorship of H-1b and J-1 employees. If you are interested in attending, please contact Steve Daubendiek for the Zoom Code.

Contact: Steve Daubendiek, sdaubend@unmc.edu

International Visitors/Scholars

Guidance in the FAQs

1. Are applications for visiting scientists still on-hold for the time being?
Yes. New applications for visiting scientists are on-hold for the time being. We will monitor this and make revisions as the COVID situation in our community and globally continues to evolve.

– Jane Meza, PhD, associate vice chancellor for global engagement and Jennifer Larsen, MD, vice chancellor for research

2. When will new applications for international scholars and observers be allowed?
The Office of Global Engagement will continue to hold on processing any new requests and will reassess. As mentioned in the previous question, will continue to hold on processing any new requests, we will continue to monitor the COVID situation in our community and globally continues to evolve.

– Jane Meza, PhD, associate vice chancellor for global engagement and Jennifer Larsen, MD, vice chancellor for research

These questions are taken from the FAQs on the [UNMC Research Operations website](#).

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

International Photo Contest

In March, the Office of Global Engagement is launching an International Photo Contest. The contest will be open to students, residents, faculty, and staff from the UNMC community. The online submission process will open from March 8-24 through the [OGE website](#) published with the complete contest rules. Start

reviewing your old travel photos and select your favorite three (3) photos and share them with us!

INAUGURAL INTERNATIONAL PHOTO CONTEST



More information will be published in early March.

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