

The Global Glance

A Monthly Update from the Office of Global Engagement
October 2021



Visa/Immigration

Significant delays at Omaha Social Security Administration

The Office of Global Engagement has learned from various departments that the Omaha Social Security Administration (SSA) is experiencing significant delays in establishing appointments for newly arrived international students and scholars. Numerous inquiries have been made to the local SSA and in most cases, they are told that the process takes as long as it takes and due to COVID-19 protocols, they can only arrange appointments by email. The Office of Global Engagement has the proper email address and instructions for submitting a request for an appointment, though even that process appears to be currently very slow. Some departments have even reached out to the SSA offices in Council Bluffs and Lincoln to inquire about appointments. In most cases they are advised that if they will be working in Omaha, they must apply to the Omaha SSA. In at least one case, this tactic was successful at the Council Bluffs SSA and an appointment was made within only a few days. This case however appears to be an outlier, though for anyone waiting for an appointment date at the Omaha SSA, it may be worth a try. Please keep in mind that the SSA will only offer services directly to the applicant, and so the applicant must contact them to request the appointment. To request the email address and guidelines of submitting a request for an appointment to the Omaha Social Security Administration, please contact Dan Teet.

Contact: Dan Teet, dteet@unmc.edu

Processing Time of H-1b cases

Regular processing of H-1b cases have continued to increase since May and has reached five and a half months. Prior to the pandemic, regular processing cases were being adjudicated eight-eleven months after cases were submitted to the USCIS. From April 2020 – May 2021, regular processing was substantially decreased to within two months. The uncertainty of when regular processing will continue has caused many pending cases to be changed to Premium Processing, which expedites cases at an additional cost of \$2,500.

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

Arab Health Summit explores 'Advancing Health Equity for Women': free tickets offered to first 10 UNMC students to register

Registration now is open for the ninth Annual Arab Health Summit, which will discuss "Advancing Health Equity for Women" and feature a presentation by Jane Meza, PhD, UNMC's associate vice chancellor for global engagement and interim executive director for the office of health security.

The summit, held virtually on Oct. 19-21, is hosted by ACCESS, the nation's largest Arab American community nonprofit. The UNMC Office of Global Engagement also is a sponsor.

Registration is open and complimentary to the first 10 UNMC students. At the time of publishing, four tickets are available. To register, use the access code **unmc100**. Faculty and staff are welcome to join for a fee that includes continuing medical education and continuing education unit credits. Please register [here](#).

[Click here](#) for the entire UNMC Today article.

Rwanda-Nebraska One Health Virtual Workshop

Join us for the Rwanda-Nebraska One Health Virtual Workshop on Thursday-Friday, October 21-22, 8:30-10:30 a.m. via Zoom. This event will highlight existing Rwanda-Nebraska partnerships as well as facilitate multidisciplinary research and academic collaborations between the University of Nebraska and partners in Rwanda.

For more information and to register, [click here](#).

UNMC International Week

International Week, coordinated by the UNMC International Student Association and sponsored by the Office of Global Engagement (OGE), will be held the week of November 15. An OGE open house will be held in the Williams Science Hall. Watch your email for more details.

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