



U.E. Local 896
Campaign to Organize
Graduate Students



April 15, 2025. For immediate release

Contact COGS: cogs@cogs.org

FEDERAL OFFICIALS REVOKE VISAS OF FIVE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA STUDENTS

At a webinar April 14th with Russell Ganim, Associate Provost and Dean of International Programs, it was announced that federal officials have now revoked the visas of FIVE international students at the University of Iowa. This authoritarianism should be resisted by all people of conscience in whatever capacity they are able. Below are resources, including notes from the meeting with Dean Ganim.

Federal officials have now revoked the visas of five University of Iowa students per a webinar hosted by Russell Ganim, Dean of International Programs. This does not necessarily mean these students' ability to remain legally in the country is revoked or that their student status is altered. Should a student's visa or status become affected, there is the possibility of [reinstatement](#).

If your student visa is revoked or flagged in Student Exchange and Visitor Information System (SEVIS), please contact the UI [Immigration Law Clinic](#) and UI [International Students and Scholars Services](#) (ISSS).

At this time, it is recommended that international students carry physical color photocopies of immigration documents at all times. See [guidance from the University of Washington](#), which applies in Iowa. Foreign travel for international students currently carries some risk. If you plan to travel abroad, first consult ISSS and register your travel plans.

If you are visited by ICE while on campus contact the Office of General Counsel (OGC). If visited after business hours, contact UI Public Safety (UIPD), or ISSS. The Office of the General Counsel can be reached during business hours at 319-335-3696. Outside of those hours, UIPD can be reached at 319-335-5022. If an immigration enforcement officer requests access to records or a space that is private, which includes many campus spaces like residence halls and patient care areas, ask them to wait while you consult with OGC for guidance. UI Health Care staff members may also call the hospital operator at 319-356-1616 and ask for the attorney on call or Safety and Security at 319-356-2658. As with any law enforcement encounter, you can invoke your fifth amendment and refuse to speak. The [ACLU offers these tips](#) on encounters with immigration enforcement officers.

In addition to the UI Immigration Law Clinic, international students whose visas have been revoked or flagged are encouraged to contact the [American Immigration Lawyers Association](#) (AILA), which has some discounted services for those in need. Other legal support can be found through the [Immigration Advocates Network](#). Helpful online forums can be found at the [Association of International Educators](#).

Per Dean Ganim, senior international officers of the Big Ten met last week regarding recent changes. An [immigration lawyer](#) affiliated with the AILA is filing a nation-wide lawsuit through his firm which will slow down the visa revocations, at least temporarily. Please contact the [AILA](#) if your visa is revoked or flagged.

Asked under what conditions a student's petitions for visa reinstatements would not be supported, officials on the webinar said there is likely to be less support if there is a criminal record and arrest. If these infractions are minor, there is still potential for university support of reinstatement.

Visa revocations can be related to any criminal record, even for something as innocuous as a speeding ticket, or an infraction that has been expunged. ISSS is trying to use this lack of specificity to argue against visa revocation. Asked whether international students and scholars with no civil or criminal violations should be concerned, university officials suggested there is still reason for concern given the somewhat random nature with which student visas are targeted.

The University of Iowa currently has no structure in place to notify the public regarding the number of students whose visas have been affected, though officials said they are working on this. University officials say ICE has not encountered UI students whose visas have currently been revoked.

Students considering self deportation should first consult with the UI Immigration Law Clinic. Should students decide to self deport, they should clarify with their program issues around student funding, the ability to finish programs online, and whether their student status will be affected. There is not yet a clear university-wide protocol on this.

If you have questions around immigration but don't want to ask publicly, please contact the UI Immigration Law Clinic, or [COGS](#). [University Counseling Services](#) is also available, offering services in multiple languages. There is currently a fund being set up for legal aid and other expenses. Please contact COGS for more information.

This is a scary time. It is also a time to stand for justice and against those in power. In the words of Omar El [Akkad](#),

The moral component of history, the most necessary component, is simply a single question, asked over and over again: When it mattered, who sided with justice and who sided with power? What makes moments such as this one so dangerous, so clarifying, is that one way or another everyone is forced to answer.

We again assure our members that COGS will do whatever we can in order to protect each other. Graduate workers offering, or in need of, support should contact their [area steward](#). When governments and institutions fail to do so, we must keep one another safe.

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact cogs@cogs.org



U.E. Local 896
Campaign to Organize
Graduate Students



April 10, 2025. For immediate release
Contact: Cary Stough, Greg Wickenkamp

INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT AT UNIVERSITY OF IOWA HAS STUDENT-VISA SUDDENLY REVOKED

The US State Department creates fear and chaos for international students and researchers at the University of Iowa. COGS demands greater support for international students and immigrants.

An email was sent to all University of Iowa international students April 10, 2025. The email below details the sudden revocation of a student visa for a University of Iowa graduate student.

COGS recognizes university resources are currently overwhelmed and they are likely able to offer little support for international students beyond encouraging them to find their own legal counsel. In light of such spurious attacks on scholars and immigrants, we urge the University of Iowa, our community, and individuals to do whatever they are able to resist such blatant authoritarianism designed to terrorize our international students.

This is a scary time. We want to assure our members that COGS will do whatever we can, putting our bodies on the line, in order to protect each other. We urge other individuals and organizations to take a similar stance. Toward that end, graduate workers should contact their [area steward](#) or reach out to other COGS members to create plans to keep themselves and one another safe. Other resources worth exploring not mentioned in the university email can be found through the [American Immigration Lawyers Association](#), [IC Compassion](#), [Iowa City Catholic Worker](#), [Eschucha Mi Voz Iowa](#), and the [Prairielands Freedom Fund](#).

Students flagged in Student Exchange and Visitor Information System (SEVIS) by federal agents as having their student visa revoked does *not* mean they need to self-deport regardless of language in SEVIS. Their student status, which is different from a student visa, is likely still valid and they should check with UI's [Immigration Law Clinic](#). If you have been contacted by the University regarding your immigration status, are interested in providing support to those who have been, or wish to donate money to support the legal fees of students whose visas are revoked, please contact [COGS](#). On campus, if an Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent attempts to enter a classroom or other private space the agent should be told they do not have permission and the [Office of the General Counsel](#) should be contacted.

Emails sent April 10, 2025 to international students at the University of Iowa:

From: Russell Ganim <russell-ganim@uiowa.edu>

Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 11:46:00 AM

Subject: Updates for international students and scholars

Dear international students and scholars,

I am writing to share resources as federal activities are having an impact on international students at dozens of universities across the country, and in Iowa.

On April 4, the university learned the U.S. Department of State had canceled the visa of a University of Iowa graduate student. The university did not initiate the action and was not aware of any violation. UI's International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) immediately alerted the student, offered to meet, and outlined next steps.

Current guidance

In the event ISSS learns of a change in your status, we will reach out immediately to share guidance and outline next steps.

It is important to understand that the university is not authorized to provide personal legal advice. For personal legal advice, contact a private attorney. The following contacts may be helpful in connecting you to legal resources:

- The [Iowa State Bar Association](http://www.iowabar.org) (515-243-3179

in connecting you to legal resources.

- The [Iowa State Bar Association](http://www.iowabar.org) (515-243-3179 or isba@iowa.org)
- The [Law Clinic](http://www.lawclinic.uiowa.edu) at Iowa Law (319-335-9023 or law-legal-clinic@uiowa.edu)
- [Student Legal Services](http://www.studentlegalservices.org)

For additional information please check International Program's [Federal Updates](#) page where students can keep track of any changes to international student regulations. If the federal government adopts new travel restrictions, ISSS will review the new restrictions and email students to let them know how or whether they would be affected.

International students and scholars are valued members of the Iowa community. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to [reach out to the International Student and Scholar Services team either in person or virtually](#).



Russell Ganim (he/him/his)
Associate Provost and Dean, International Programs
1111 University Capitol Centre, Iowa City, Iowa 52242
Office: 319-335-0373
international.uiowa.edu



If you would like more information about this topic, please email cogs@cogs.org