International Visitors Office

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Board on International Scientific Organizations
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Presentation to
American Chemical Society International Activities Committee
How the IVO Functions

• The IVO collects information through an online visa questionnaire. Visa cases related to scientific activities can be reported to the IVO if they are:
  • **B-1 applications** pending for 30 days after applicant’s completion and 14 days within the event’s start date or
  • **Another visa category** pending for 60 days after application’s completion

• The IVO Webpage (and survey link) can be found at www.nationalacademies.org/visas
Visa Categories that the IVO Assists

• B-1: Short-term travel to conduct business, such as scientific conferences or meetings
• H-1B: Temporary employment in a specialty occupation
• F-1: Academic studies (undergraduate or graduate)
• J-1: Approved exchange programs (IVO receives mostly postdocs, research scholars, guest professors)
IVO Data Collection

• All IVO data is self-reported and so represents a small subset of all visa applications.
• DOS visa statistics can be found at: http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/law-and-policy/statistics.html
• Total cases reported to IVO from 2002 through December 31, 2015: 12,889 (657 cases in 2015).
• Average processing time for all cases reported to the Department of State by the IVO, which were issued in 2015: 94 days.
Consistent Trends from 2013 - 2015

• ~90% of all reported visa cases continue to come from China, Iran, and India.
• In 2015, there was little change in the distribution among academic fields.
• Engineering still accounts for ~40% of IVO cases (the majority)
### Visa Trends from 2014 to 2015 by Category

Cases reported to Department of State from January 1 of the first year to December 31 of the second year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visa Category</th>
<th>Total Cases 2014</th>
<th>China 2014</th>
<th>India 2014</th>
<th>Iran 2014</th>
<th>Other 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total B-1 Visa Cases in 2014: 315</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>148 (47%)</td>
<td>67 (21%)</td>
<td>37 (12%)</td>
<td>63 (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total B-1 Visa Cases in 2015: 215</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>101 (47%)</td>
<td>52 (24%)</td>
<td>24 (11%)</td>
<td>38 (18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total F-1 Visa Cases in 2014: 190</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>91 (48%)</td>
<td>10 (5%)</td>
<td>87 (46%)</td>
<td>2 (1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total F-1 Visa Cases in 2015: 289</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>185 (64%)</td>
<td>11 (4%)</td>
<td>85 (29%)</td>
<td>8 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total J-1 Visa Cases in 2014: 149</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>100 (67%)</td>
<td>12 (8%)</td>
<td>24 (16%)</td>
<td>13 (9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total J-1 Visa Cases in 2015: 85</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>58 (68%)</td>
<td>1 (1%)</td>
<td>19 (23%)</td>
<td>7 (8%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chinese Case Outcomes 2014-2015

*Cases reported to Department of State from January 1 of the first year to December 31 of the second year.*

**2014 IVO Cases from China**
- Denied: 17
- Delayed: 97
- Granted: 260
- Other/Need more info: 8
- Unrelated to science: 11

**Total Chinese Visa Cases in 2014: 393**

**2015 IVO Cases from China**
- Denied: 19
- Delayed: 7
- Granted: 330
- Pending: 12
- Unrelated to science: 2

**Total Chinese Visa Cases in 2015: 370**
Chinese Visa Updates

- November 1, 2016: New requirement for B-1/B-2 Chinese a holding a B1/B2 visa
- Will need to enroll in the Electronic Visa Update System (EVUS) which is the online system used by nationals of China holding a 10-year B1/B2, B1 or B2 visa
- Basic biographic information must be updated regularly to facilitate travel to the U.S.
- Enrollment for applicants valid for two years or until the visa or passport expires (whichever comes first)
- Visa holders will have to update their information before traveling to the U.S. again
Indian Case Outcomes 2014-2015

Cases reported to Department of State from January 1 of the first year to December 31 of the second year.

2014 IVO Cases from India
- Total Indian Visa Cases in 2014: 138
  - Denied: 6
  - Delayed: 43
  - Granted: 84
  - Other/Need more info: 4
  - Unrelated to science: 1

2015 IVO Cases from India
- Total Indian Visa Cases in 2015: 96
  - Denied: 5
  - Delayed: 5
  - Granted: 84
  - Pending: 0
  - Unrelated to science: 2
Iranian Case Outcomes 2014-2015

Cases reported to Department of State from January 1 of the first year to December 31 of the second year.

2014 IVO Cases from Iran
- Denied: 13%
- Delayed: 8%
- Granted: 52%
- Other: 1%
- Pending: 26%
- Unrelated to science: 1%

Total Iranian Visa Cases in 2014: 151
- Denied: 19
- Delayed: 39
- Granted: 78
- Other/Need more info: 2
- Unrelated to science: 12

2015 IVO Cases from Iran
- Denied: 21%
- Delayed: 9%
- Granted: 54%
- Other: 5%
- Pending: 2%
- Unrelated to science: 2%

Total Iranian Visa Cases in 2015: 132
- Denied: 28
- Delayed: 12
- Granted: 71
- Pending: 11
- Other: 7
- Unrelated to science: 3
Scientific Meetings

• IVO encourages scientific, technical, and medical meeting organizers to:

• Register the meeting with IVO through the online registration form at [www.nationalacademies.org/visas](http://www.nationalacademies.org/visas) - meeting organizer resources

• Offer international meeting participants a letter of invitation as soon as possible

• Tell applicants to APPLY EARLY (four months prior to travel) and bring an English-language CV to their visa interview

• Tell applicants to bring proof of permanent residence and intent to return home to their visa interview (Section 214(b) visa refusals)

• Encourage international attendees (if necessary) to contact the IVO by linking to our website on the conference webpage
Conclusion

IVO strives to serve as a resource for the whole scientific community.

www.nationalacademies.org/visas

Thank you for your attention.