SPECIAL REGISTRATION (NSEERS) INFORMATION

The National Security Exit-Entry Registration System (NSEERS) was implemented in September 2002 to fulfill a congressional mandate to establish a comprehensive system to track the entry and departure of certain non-immigrants in the United States. Non-immigrants enrolled in NSEERS, also known as Special Registration, are required to register in person with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) before leaving the country. Failure to comply with Special Registration reporting requirements may result in denial of admission to the United States. Public information about the NSEERS program is available online at http://www.ice.gov/pi/specialregistration/index.htm.

Who is Affected

While any non-immigrant visitor may be subject to Special Registration, the requirements have been primarily applied to males ages 16-45 from the following countries:

Afghanistan  Eritrea  Kuwait  Oman  Sudan *
Algeria  Indonesia  Libya  Pakistan  Syria *
Bahrain  Iran *  Lebanon  Qatar  Tunisia
Bangladesh  Iraq  Morocco  Somalia  United Arab Emirates
Egypt  Jordan  North Korea *  Saudi Arabia  Yemen

The following non-immigrants may also be enrolled in Special Registration:

- Non-immigrants who have been designated by the State Department.
- Any other non-immigrant, male or female regardless of nationality, identified by immigration officers at airports, seaports, and land ports of entry.

* Citizens of these countries are not currently eligible for Automatic Extension of Visa Validity. Your visa stamp must be unexpired in order to re-enter the United States from Canada or Mexico, even if you were outside the country for a short period of time.

How to Tell if You Are Enrolled in Special Registration

During the Special Registration process, an immigration inspector from DHS will take your fingerprints and photographs of you. The inspector will write a Fingerprint Identification Number (FIN) on your I-94 card and stamp the words "Special Registrant" on it. If your I-94 card has a FIN or "Special Registrant" stamp on it, you have been enrolled in Special Registration and must meet all reporting requirements for the program. Please make an appointment with an international student or scholar advisor after you arrive if you have been designated a special registrant.

When you are enrolled in Special Registration, the immigration inspector should give you a Walkaway Materials packet, which provides information on the NSEERS program, instructions for meeting reporting requirements, and contact information for ports of entry and departure in the United States. The packet is also available on the ICE website at http://www.ice.gov/doclib/pi/specialregistration/srindividuals.pdf.

Departure Reporting

Anyone enrolled in Special Registration must report for an exit interview before leaving the United States. If you leave the country, even for a short period of time, you must appear in person before an immigration inspection officer at the port of departure from which you leave the U.S. If you are flying and you transfer planes within the U.S., you must report to an immigration officer at the last U.S. airport of your trip. The airport must be one of the designated ports of departure (see the Walkaway Materials packet for a complete list), and you must leave the country from that port on the same day.

You should bring all your current immigration documents to the interview, including your most recent I-20 or DS-2019, passport, visa, and I-94 arrival/departure card. You may wish to bring additional documentation that confirms your travel plans, such as printed itineraries, hotel reservations, and contact information for friends or relatives you will be visiting. You may also bring a translator with you to your interview, if needed.
**Portland International Airport (PDX)**

If you are departing from PDX airport, you should proceed through security to your designated departure gate. An immigration inspector will meet you at the gate to conduct the interview. You should contact the immigration inspection office at least two days before you travel to confirm that an officer will be available when you arrive. You may reach their office at (503) 326-3409.

Since it may be difficult to reach US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) by phone, you may also fax them your information using the PDX “Special Registrant Departure Notification Form”. The form is available at http://oregonstate.edu/international/atosu/students/forms. Fax to: (530) 326-7040 (for the PDX airport only). FAXing the form is supposed to facilitate a smooth transition out of the United States and to ease the collection of information. If you use the fax option, please also bring this form with you as you depart from Portland.

In general, immigration inspectors are available during the following times:

- **Days:** Monday through Saturday
- **Time:** 7:30 am through 3:30 pm

You should make your travel plans with the interview requirement in mind. When possible, you should book a flight that departs during a time when immigration inspectors are available. If you are unable to find a flight that departs during the immigration inspectors’ normal hours of operation, you should contact their office in advance to discuss your situation. If your flight departs on a Sunday, an immigration inspector may be available to conduct an exit interview, if time permits. In rare cases, the immigration inspection office may issue a waiver for the interview requirement. However, please be aware that waivers are seldom granted, and generally only for unusual and compelling circumstances.

**Other Reporting Requirements**

If you are enrolled in Special Registration, you must report a change of address to U.S Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) within ten (10) days. Students and exchange visitors on an F-1 or J-1 visa may report a change of address directly to International Student & Faculty Services (ISFS). Our office will update your address in SEVIS, fulfilling the reporting requirement.

All other foreign nationals enrolled in Special Registration, including U.S. permanent residents and dependents on an F-2 or J-2 visa who do not live with the principal visa holder, must report a change of address directly to USCIS. You may notify USCIS of a change of address by completing form AR-11SR, or by using the online change of address tool. Form AR-11SR is available at http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/ar-11sr.pdf. The change of address tool is available on the USCIS website at http://www.uscis.gov. If you have a pending case or petition with USCIS, we highly recommend that you submit a change of address online to expedite processing. If you choose to submit a paper copy of form AR-11SR, you should send the form using certified, registered, or return receipt mail to confirm delivery. You should also contact USCIS Customer Service at 1-800-375-5283 after you have sent the form to request that your case or petition be updated to include your current address.

Special registrants on an F-1 or J-1 visa must also notify USCIS when they transfer to another university or program. The reporting requirement will be met when your SEVIS record is transferred to the new university or program. Please schedule an appointment with an international student or scholar advisor if you have further questions.

**Failure to Comply with Reporting Requirements**

Your Special Registration file will remain active if you do not complete an exit interview with a DHS officer before you leave the United States. You will likely be denied a new entry visa for failure to complete the exit interview. You will also likely be denied admission to the United States in the future, even if you have a valid visa, if DHS records show you did not complete an interview during your last departure. It is therefore very important that you complete an exit interview before departing the country and meet all reporting requirements for the program.

If you did not complete an exit interview before leaving the United States, but you were allowed to re-enter the country, please make an appointment with an international student or scholar advisor as soon as possible after you arrive. You may make an appointment with an advisor by contacting our main office at (541) 737-6310. Our office can also provide a list of immigration attorneys in the area you may wish to consult if you have failed to meet reporting requirements for the NSEERS program, or if you encounter any additional problems as a special registrant.