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Another Blow To International Students In US? Trump Administration Planning To Limit Visa Period: Report

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If it comes into picture, it would be another blow to international students who have not yet come out of the shock of abrupt and 'unlawful' termination of their SEVIS records, along with revocation of their F-1 visa.



Donald Trump's decision to bring trouble for international students

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A new rule proposed by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is likely to bring more troubles for international students, exchange visitors, and representatives of foreign information media, as it proposes to fix 'periods of stay'. A representation in this regard has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), a report said.

The OMB, whose head reports directly to the US President, is one of the final steps in the rulemaking process. If approved, the proposed rule will be published in the Federal Register, reported Times of India.

If it is finalised, a window of 30 or 60 days is provided for public comments and then the rule is finalised after several months. TOI reported, citing education experts, that the order could be issued as an interim final rule, and could come into effect immediately without inviting public comments.

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If it comes into picture, it would be another blow to international students who have not yet come out of the shock of abrupt and 'unlawful' termination of their SEVIS records, along with revocation of their F-1 visa.

As of now, international students are not admitted into the US until a specific departure date. The current norm states that students can stay in the US as long as they are studying.

"Currently, international students can stay in the US as long as they are maintaining their full-time student status in approved programs. This is referred to as 'duration of status'. The Trump administration wants to change this to a predefined period of stay. With a fixed expiration date on their visa, international students would have to periodically apply for extensions," Rajiv S. Khanna, managing attorney at Immigration.com was quoted as saying by TOI.

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"This will create additional unnecessary delays, financial burden and uncertainty for students. Considering that an average extension of status request can take a few months to process, these types of restrictive regulations will increase the uncertainty international students would face," he added.

This is not the first time the Trump administration is in the process of limiting visa period. During his previous government in 2020, the administration had finalised something similar, the report added.

Speaking to the news outlet, a representative from a US university stated that the proposed tenure of an international student's visa will be announced only once the rule is published in the Federal Register.

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He said it will take time to get clear if the students will have to reapply for an extension each semester or each year.

"Student overstay is just a boogie, the total overstay rate for student and exchange visitors (J visa) was just 3.6% in 2023. The proposed move is not a solution, in fact the uncertainty surrounding each visa extension, will not bode good for the international student community or the US educational sector," he stated, as per the report.

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