

Protocol for International Students, Scholars & Visitors
Seeking to enter the United States to attend or visit Lehigh University

A citizen of a foreign country who seeks to enter the United States to attend a program at Lehigh University generally must first obtain a U.S. visa. Certain international travelers coming to Lehigh may be eligible to travel to the United States without a visa stamped in their passport. However, having a visa in your passport or not needing a visa stamped in your travel document does not guarantee admission to the United States. Customs and Border Protection officers at ports of entry ultimately decide whether a foreign national may be admitted to the United States. For this reason and given the uncertainty in immigration that many foreign nationals have been experiencing, Lehigh University has developed the protocol below to assist International students at Lehigh and visitors in responding to potential problems with Customs and Border Protection Officers upon entry into the United States.

A. If you are an International Student on a visa (F-1, J-1) and you are stopped at the border by Customs and Border Protection (CBP):

1. During normal business hours (Monday – Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm Eastern Time): Ask the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officer to call or allow you to call the Office of International Students & Scholars (OISS) at 610-758-4859. An OISS staff member will work with you to resolve the situation, but cannot guarantee that entry into the U.S. will be achieved immediately.
2. After normal business hours or during an official University holiday when the University is closed: Ask the CBP Officer to call or allow you to call Lehigh University Police Department (LUPD) at 610-758-4200. LUPD will notify the OISS staff member on call of your situation.

B. If you are an International Scholar or visitor on a J-1 visa and you are stopped at the border by Customs and Border Protection (CBP):

1. During normal business hours (Monday – Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm Eastern Time): Ask the CBP Officer to call or allow you to call the Office of International Students & Scholars (OISS) at 610-758-4859. An OISS staff member will work with you to resolve the situation, but cannot guarantee that entry into the U.S. will be achieved immediately.
2. After normal business hours or during an official University holiday when the University is closed: Ask the CBP Officer to call or allow you to call Lehigh University Police Department (LUPD) at 610-758-4200. LUPD will notify the OISS staff member on call of your situation.

3. Be ready to provide LUPD and OISS with the name and title of the person in your host department who can provide additional information about your invitation.

C. *If you are an international visitor from a visa waiver country such as UK and you are stopped at the border by Customs and Border Protection (CBP):*

1. During normal business hours (Monday – Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm Eastern Time): Ask the CBP Officer to call or allow you to call the Office of International Students & Scholars (OISS) at 610-758-4859. An OISS staff member will work with you to resolve the situation, but cannot guarantee that entry into the U.S. will be achieved immediately.
2. After normal business hours or during an official University holiday when the University is closed: Ask the Immigration Officer to call or allow you to call Lehigh University Police Department (LUPD) at 610-758-4200. LUPD will notify the OISS staff member on call of your situation.
3. Be ready to provide LUPD and OISS with the name and title of the person in your host department who can provide additional information about your invitation.
4. Here is the list of waiver countries: <https://www.esta.us/visa-waiver-countries/>

D. *If you lost your immigration documents or State issued identification, you are visited by an immigration agent or you are arrested by police:*

1. During normal business hours (Monday – Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm Eastern Time): please call the Office of International Students & Scholars (OISS) at 610-758-4859.
2. After normal business hours or during an official University holiday when the University is closed: please call Lehigh University Police Department (LUPD) at 610-758-4200. LUPD will notify the OISS staff member on call of your situation

Some additional items to consider:

- Never travel to the United States without emergency contact information from Lehigh University
- If you are already in the United States, always carry your original immigration documents when traveling domestically
- If you are in the Lehigh Valley area, always have photocopies of your immigration documents