



**HOWARD**  
**UNIVERSITY**

Office of the International Student & Immigration Services

## Visa Policy Updates from the U.S. Department of State

Howard University is closely monitoring recent developments affecting F1 and J1 visa processing. The U.S. Department of State has reportedly instructed U.S. embassies and consulates to **pause the scheduling of new F-1 and J-1 visa interviews** worldwide while the department prepares to implement new screening procedures, specifically aimed at reviewing **visa applicants' social media activity**. At this time, **no specific timeline or detailed guidance** has been provided regarding when scheduling may resume or what the new vetting process will entail.

Students and scholars who already have visa interviews scheduled should **confirm their appointments directly with the relevant U.S. embassy or consulate and proceed as planned**.

For those who have not yet scheduled an appointment, please be aware that **new interview slots may be delayed**, and we recommend checking embassy and consulate websites frequently for updates.

**If you cannot schedule a visa appointment by the end of July, please contact our office for further instructions on how to move forward.**

Our office is continuing to issue I-20s and DS-2019s as usual, so if you have not yet submitted your documents for issuance, please do so as soon as possible. We will continue to send reminders to those who have not taken any action.

We understand that these developments may cause concern and uncertainty. Please know that **international students and scholars are a vital part of the Howard University community**, and we are here to support you during this time. We will continue to monitor official updates from the U.S. government and will share new information as soon as it becomes available.

If you have any immediate concerns or need assistance, please contact the Office of International Student Services.

Sincerely,

Office of International Students & Immigration Services