



Professional International Educator Roundtable – PIER

Minutes PIER Meeting

Wednesday, September 24, 2008
10: 30 a.m.
USCIS
880 Front Street, 6th Floor, Room 6273

I. Welcome

II. Introduction of 2008-2009 PIER Executive Board

Karla Macias, Chair
Kasey McCarthy, Chair-Elect
Mike Dietz, Webmaster
Lilia Davis, Treasurer
Karen Roque, Membership Coordinator
Layla San Jose, Secretary

III. Acknowledgement of Outgoing PIER Board Members

Melissa Diaz, Outgoing Chair
Hao Nguyen, Outgoing Membership Coordinator

IV. Introduction of DHS/DOS Panel Representatives

Vincenzo Zoni , Special Agent, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration & Customs Enforcement: vincenzo.l.zoni@dhs.gov; 619-550-5182
Sandra Raynes, Deputy NIV Chief, U.S. Consulate Tijuana: RaynesS@state.gov; 664-634-3045
David L. Backe, Supervisory CBP Officer, Training Unit Supervisor, National Training Officer – Century Office, Otay Mesa: david.backe@dhs.gov; 619-671-8977
Tony Murga, CBP
Officer Delacalzada, CBP – Deferred Inspections: 619-685-4336

V. Traditional Introduction of PIER Members

VI. PIER Business

- A. Membership (Karen): Enrollment update
 - a. About 20 complete applications received
 - b. Available for applications/payments after meeting
- B. Treasurer (Lilia): Budget report
 - a. Savings balance: \$36.96
 - b. Checking balance: \$67.14
- C. Chair-Elect (Kasey): Mentor program, New Professionals Workshop

- a. Survey reminder: everyone go to SurveyMonkey and complete the membership survey!
- b. (New) Professionals Workshop: February 27
 - i. More info to be posted closer to date
- c. NAFSA Regional Conference 2009
 - i. Kasey is co-chair for conference
 - ii. Call for volunteers: those interested in volunteering, please contact Kasey
- D. Chair (Karla): NAFSA Travel Grants, Meeting topics
 - a. NAFSA Travel Grant, Region XII Conference: deadline is October 7
 - i. Applications available on website
 - ii. Email reminder to be sent

VII. DHS/DOS Updates/Q&A

A. CBP Questions

Question #1

I have a student who was given an I-193 (application for waiver of passport or visa) because the student's dependents were issued the incorrect visa status. If the student and their dependents travel to Mexico, Canada or the adjacent islands, are they eligible for reentry?

*Answer: **(Officer Dave Backe)** They are not eligible for re-entry. The I-193 is a "one-shot deal," meaning it is only given once. Once issued an I-193, you must get issue (such as incorrect visa status) resolved. An I-193 will not be issued for multiple entry. Also, auto-revalidation does not apply to I-193 (only expired visa + I-94).*

Question #2

If a student changes their status inside the US, are they eligible for auto-revalidation when re-entering the US with their previous US visa?

*Answer: **(Officer Dave Backe)** They can revalidate their "changed" visa; however, they must have all paperwork proving their change of status. Make sure I-94 is not surrendered when entering contiguous areas; however, if it is, you can have just the I-20/DS-2019. (Example: if a student changes their status from J-1 to F-1 in the US, they can use J-1 I-94, I-797 approval notice, and I-20 to re-enter.)*

Question #3

How would you advise Mexican students that have both a tourist visa and F-1 visa?

*Answer: **(Officer Dave Backe)** Intent is crucial. For example, a student who lives in Mexico should enter/depart as tourist when not studying/school is not in session. If they are entering during their program of study, they should use their F-1 visa, as they will be a student while in the US.*

Question #4

Could you give more information regarding students wanting to enter the US on a B-1/B-2 visa or visa waiver after completing their program of study?

Answer: **(Officer Dave Backe)** This should not be an issue. Again, the student should always be clear about their intent. For example, even if a student's I-20 or F-1 visa is still valid, they should still enter as a tourist/visa waiver if they have completed their program of study.

Question #5

Can students leave and re-enter the US during their 60-day grace period?

Answer: **(Officer Dave Backe)** For B-1/B-2 or visa waiver students, the grace period is irrelevant. F-1 students can re-enter during their grace period *But, it depends on the CBP Officer. I would be careful to tell students this in case they get a CBP Officer who does not let them reenter during their grace period.* (Kasey)

Question #6

What should a student do if they are missing a stamp on either their I-20/DS-2019 or I-94?

Answer: **(Officer Delacalzada)** Students missing the stamp or handwritten notation on their documents should be sent to Deferred Inspections for proper adjudication.

-Address: **610 W. Ash Street Suite 1005, San Diego, CA 92101**

-Phone number: **(619) 685-4336**

Question #7

What should be done for students who are issued an I-515A but depart before receiving their adjudicated documents back?

Answer: **(Officer Dave Backe)** You can surrender documents on student's behalf. More information on how to do this can be found on the CBP website (http://help.cbp.gov/cgi-bin/customs.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=752&p_created=1077641280&p_sid=RGQ8g3Hh&p_lva=&p_sp=cF9zcmNoPTEmcF9zb3J0X2J5PSZwX2dyaWRzb3J0PSZwX3Jvd19jbnQ9OCZwX3Byb2RzPTAmcF9jYXRzPTAmcF9wdj0mcF9jdj0mcF9zZWYyY2hfdHlwZT1hbnN3ZXJzLnNIYXJjaF9ubCZwX3BhZ2U9MSZwX3NIYXJjaF90ZXh0PUktOTQ*&p_li=&p_topview=1).

General information regarding re-entry at border (San Ysidro, Otay Mesa) **(Officer Dave Backe and Officer Tony Murga)**

-Students must always show proper documentation (I-20/DS-2019, valid passport, valid US visa stamp).

-It is also a good idea to issue support letters/documentation.

-Please keep in mind that every inspection is different.

-There are also a lot of new officers, so they are not as knowledgeable or well-experienced as officers of the past.

-Students from the following countries are not eligible for auto-revalidation:

-Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, North Korea, and Syria (these countries were given by the officer)

-Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan, and Syria (these countries were listed on the DOS website as of 12/12/07, <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/87498.pdf>, p. 13)

-The authorized port of departure for NSEERS registrants is Otay Mesa

-Students may experience long delays at port of entry

-If students do not have valid travel signature they will be issued an I-515A

Question #8

B. Consulate Questions ([Sandra Raynes](#))

Question #1:

A student recently said she saw on the Tijuana consular web site that it takes up to 30 days to adjudicate an application for a renewal of an F1 visa, requiring the applicant to stay in TJ during the adjudication period. The applicant called the TJ consulate, paid \$7 to talk to a consultant/advisor, and was told it takes 7 days to adjudicate a renewal for F1 visa. Is either of these situations true?

Answer: Currently, if a student has their interview in the morning, there is a good chance their visa will be issued the same day (though it's not guaranteed); the usual visa turnaround time is next day; however, it may be longer for more complex cases. Also, visa appointments for TCNs are currently exhausted through January 2009.

Question #2

Can you give details on how a student can change their visa at the U.S. Consulate in Tijuana if they were issued the incorrect visa in their home country?

Answer: Contact Sandra Raynes (RaynesS@state.gov, 664-634-3045, ext. 225) or David McCawley (McCawleyD@state.gov, 664-634-3045, ext. 224).

Question #3

When issuing US visas, which name is used: the name on the passport or the name on the I-20/DS-2019?

Answer: The name on the passport is used. Any mismatch was an oversight.

Question #4

Does the online appointment system screen visa applications?

Answer: The system will list warnings for students who are nationals of countries identified as state sponsors of terrorism. It will permit students from all other countries. There are no appointments given for COS from B-1/B-2 to F-1 or initial F-1 visa.

C. ICE Questions ([Vincenzo Zoni](#))

Question #1

Should multiple I-20s be issued for students with multiple passports?

Answer: No, students should only use ONE passport. There should be no "mixing and matching." The same passport should be used in issuing the initial I-20, applying for the US visa, and when entering/departing the US.

Question #2

Are terminated students ever directly notified by ICE?

Answer: For students that overstay their visits, ICE headquarters send leads to ICE officers (this is not immediate, usually takes >1 year). The officers then check last known address. If student is located, they are taken into custody.

-Follow-up Question: How does termination affect a student's re-entry?

Answer: This depends on the circumstances of the termination. CBP only checks SEVIS for F-1/J-1 re-entry, not any other status.

Question #3

If a student is outside the US for more than 5 months and has a valid visa, must they apply for a new visa if they are issued a new I-20?

Answer: A student would need a valid visa and valid I-20 to re-enter; the name of the school on the visa need not match the school listed on the I-20.