

ALL UNIVERSITY MESSAGE

Dear Campus Community,

As an American public research university, we welcome and celebrate the global diversity our students, scholars, researchers and healthcare professionals. We are very proud of our international community, many of whom have sacrificed much to come to the United States and have developed deep connections not only within the University, but within the broader New Mexico community and beyond.

Last month, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) proposed a rule, [Establishing a Fixed Time Period of Admission and an Extension of Stay Procedure for Nonimmigrant Academic Students, Exchange Visitors and Representatives of Foreign Information Media](#), which would set fixed terms of [anywhere from two to four years](#) for F and J visas affecting our international learners and establish cumbersome procedures for students, residents and fellows to apply to extend their stay and continue studying in the United States.

If such a rule were to go into effect, it would create an incredibly unnecessary burden on our international community as well as heightened uncertainty, disrupting forward educational progress for many learners. America's universities have drawn immense strength from the power of bringing the many diverse talents and contributions of people from around the world together to create new knowledge, new collaborations and new relationships. UNM is a place where all are welcome to pursue their education, practice and dreams.

On behalf of The University of New Mexico, [I have submitted a comment letter that expresses our university's very strong opposition to this proposed rule](#), and requests that it be withdrawn in its entirety, allowing the current rules governing time period of admission, duration of status, and extension of stay to remain in effect for all F and J students, scholars, physicians, and other healthcare professionals.

This proposed rule is especially alarming as it comes in the midst of an ongoing global pandemic, when our focus should be on preserving the health, safety and well-being of one another and our communities. Be assured, we will continue to advocate on behalf of our international community during this already difficult time, and remain a place that is welcoming of all people.

Garnett S. Stokes
President

