



Press Release

February 11, 2005

Contact: DHS Press Office
202.282.8010

Homeland Security, State Department Work with Foreign Students/Scientists MORE STREAMLINED APPROACH APPROVED FOR VISA CLEARANCES

Washington, D.C. – The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) today in consultation with the Department of State announced the extension of visa clearances for persons studying or working in certain sensitive scientific and technical fields. These persons are subject to an interagency clearance process called Visas Mantis that has been in place since 1998 to screen against the illegal transfer of technology.

“Through the effective interagency partnership we have with the Department of State, we are now better able to accommodate international businesses, as well as students who lawfully enter our country,” said Asa Hutchinson, DHS Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security. “This change sends a clear message that the U.S. highly encourages those with great scientific minds to explore studying and working in our country.”

Prior to this announcement, the Visas Mantis clearance would expire during an academic program so international students were repeatedly applying for a new visa while already committed to a course of study. Additionally, business visitors, temporary workers, exchange visitors and intracompany transferees will now be able to receive Visas Mantis clearance for up to two years depending on the duration of their approved activity.

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