

AAEP IMMIGRATION UPDATE WITH ATTORNEY GLEN KREBS

November 2025

In 2024, the AAEP Foreign Veterinary Graduate Task Force hosted a webinar with Immigration Attorney Glen W. Krebs, helping outline the immigration and visa process. We have asked Mr. Krebs to provide a brief update and his practical advice to our members.

With the recent administration changes, we have heard about many changes in the immigration and visa process. What are the biggest changes you see impacting foreign veterinary graduates?

The largest change impacting foreign veterinary graduates right now is the increased fees for H-1B visa applicants. Typically, eligible foreign veterinary graduates outside the United States and their future employers were only required to pay the USCIS filing fees for an H-1B visa, as well as the fee to process the visa application at the Embassy. These fees range anywhere from \$1,000 to \$3,500, depending on the type of employer.

A recent Presidential Proclamation has substantially increased the fee for H-1B applicants outside the United States. The Proclamation implemented a \$100,000 fee that employers must pay to receive an H-1B visa on behalf of a worker outside the United States. Per current guidance, this fee does not apply to individuals in the US on an H-1B visa currently or who are here on another type of non-immigrant visa that will change status to H-1B. The fee is only required for individuals currently outside the United States petitioning for an H-1B visa.

We have heard from several members who are currently in the US on a visa that have received conflicting advice about having to return to their country to process their visas or their renewals. What advice would you give them?

Many visas are only granted for shorter periods than the total time of eligibility. For example, the H-1B visa can be used for up to six years but is approved in two three-year increments. If an individual is nearing the end of their visa but is eligible to extend their visa, they may apply for an extension within the United States.

Non-immigrant visa holders are eligible to apply for extensions from within the United States six months prior to their current visa expiration date. Sometimes these applications take longer than six months to process. For most non-immigrant employment-based visas, individuals are given an additional 240 days of work authorization following their visa expiration, provided their extension application is received by USCIS before their current expiration date.

When the renewal application is approved, the applicant will receive an I-797 Approval Notice from USCIS with a new I-94 attached to it showing their new admit until date in the United States. After receiving this approval, if the visa holder departs the United States, they will need to schedule an appointment with their home embassy to obtain a new visa stamp in their passport prior to re-entering the United States.

The same process applies to changing from one non-immigrant visa to another inside the United States. For example, an individual in the US on a TN visa who is selected in the H-1B lottery could then petition to change status inside the United States from TN to H-1B without leaving the country.

An applicant should not need to leave the United States to apply for an extension or change of status for any reason. We recommend that individuals not travel while an application to extend or change status is pending.

Where do you recommend FVGs go for the best advice or resources regarding their individual visa questions/situations?

If you are outside the United States and processing an application with your local consulate or embassy, their websites have helpful information regarding the exact process to submit applications. Additionally, USCIS's website has helpful information regarding all non-immigrant visas and what is required to qualify for them. If you have any questions about your visa or situation, we are happy to assist and answer any questions you may have. We are happy to provide those affiliated with the AAEP a free 15-minute initial consultation regarding your current situation.

You can contact Glen Krebs at Wyatt Firm via phone 859-288-7418 or email gwkrebs@wyattfirm.com. Please let him know you are an AAEP Member. If you would like to review our initial webinar with Mr. Krebs, it can be found here <https://aaep.org/guidelines-resources/veterinarian-resources/foreign-veterinary-school-graduate-resources/>