Visiting Scholar Review Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in hosting a visiting scholar. Please review the guidelines below, conduct the appropriate due diligence, sign, and return the certification below to Stephanie Pena at spena4@umassd.edu.

Visiting scholars (students, professors, research scholars, and physicians) are invited, for a limited time-period, to campus for a specific academic or research purpose(s). For international visitors, Under the J-Visa program we (campus) are responsible for selecting, screening, and monitoring visitors.

The overwhelming majority of our visits are immensely successful. However, experience reveals that some such visitors pose potential risks, for example, to your research data and future publications, intellectual property, export controls, reputational and financial damages, and cyber-security.

We ask for your assistance in mitigating these risks by performing a few simple due diligence checks to verify:

1. the visitor is who they say they are;
2. the visitor is affiliated with an appropriate academic or research entity;
3. that the visitor is well-suited and matched to your research pursuits and academic objectives.

Below are some helpful suggestions for performing this due diligence. During the review of your visitor please bring any of the following issues to the attention of ISSC or export control:

1. inconsistencies, gaps, misrepresentations, or omissions in the material you’ve reviewed;
2. foreign military affiliations;
3. mismatch between the visitor’s academic record and their purported reason for the visit; and
4. any other issue or concern you may regarding the visitor (e.g., fitness, character).

Academic search engines (e.g., googlescholar.com, sciencedirect.com, academic.research.microsoft.com, sciencentral.com, or worldwidescience.org) are powerful tools. Such engines can be useful in efficiently performing due diligence.

Verifying the visiting scholar’s identity. Look for inconsistencies or omissions across their CV, website(s), search results, and publications.

Verifying the visiting scholar’s affiliations. Review the entities the visiting scholar is (and has been) affiliated with. Who is his/her employer? Do s/he have adjunct appointments? Do s/he work (or have they previously worked) for a corporation, government, or military? Again, compare his/her CV, websites, search results, and publications for inconsistencies, omissions or gaps.

Finally, review their academic record. Ask yourself is this person an appropriate match for my research program? Why did this visitor choose me? What assets does this person bring to the table? Do any inconsistencies, omissions or gaps exist between their CV, website(s), search results, and publications? Does their CV accurately represent their publications?

Because campus is responsible for monitoring visiting scholars upon arrival we kindly ask that you bring to the attention of ISSC (Daniel Pirbudagov) or export control (Stephanie Pena) any concerns or issues relating to the above outlined risks that may arise while the visiting scholar is on campus.

Sponsoring Faculty Certification

I, ____________________________ have (1) reviewed identity, affiliation(s), and academic record; and (2) conclude on the basis of this review that the proposed visiting scholar is (a) who they represent themselves to be; (b) appropriately affiliated with an academic or research entity; (c) and appropriately qualified (i.e., possesses sufficient integrity, character, expertise, education, experience, knowledge, and skills) for the visiting scholar program.

______________________________
Signature

______________________________
Date