



Board for International Food and Agricultural Development 179th Public Meeting (Virtual)

U.S. University Feedback on Implementation of USAID ADS 252 (Visa Compliance for Exchange Visitors) and ADS 253 (Participant Training and Exchanges for Capacity Development)

April 9 2019 from 2:30 – 5:00 pm EDT

To join the meeting:

<https://ac.usaid.gov/bifad/>

Background and Objectives

The Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD), an advisory committee to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), will convene a virtual public meeting on April 9 2019 to solicit feedback from the U.S. university community on their experiences implementing the regulations that govern USAID funded Exchange Visitors (EVs) and Participant Training (PT), as per the Automated Directives System (ADS) 252 and ADS 253. The ADS contains the organization and functions of USAID, along with the policies and procedures that guide the Agency's programs and operations.

Agenda

2:30 pm Welcome and introductions of BIFAD

Mark Keenum, President, Mississippi State University and Chair of BIFAD

2:35 pm Meeting background and purpose

James Ash, BIFAD Member and Food and Agribusiness Group Head, Husch Blackwell, LLP

2:45 pm Introduction of US Government guests

LeAnna Marr, Director, Bureau for Economic Growth, Education, and Environment (E3), Office of Education (ED), USAID

Robert Burch, Deputy Director, E3/ED

Grace Lang, Higher Education Division Chief, E3/ED, USAID

Ethel Brooks, International Education and Training Advisor, E3/ED, USAID

Jeffrey Shahan, Policy Adviser, E3/ED, USAID

Linda Walker, International Education and Training Advisor and Responsible Officer for USAID Visa Compliance, E3/ED, USAID

Ruth Buckley, USAID Deputy Performance Improvement Officer and Deputy Director, Bureau for Management, Office of Policy, Budget, and Performance.

Eileen Simoes, Division Chief, Policy, Office of Management Policy, Budget, and Performance, Bureau for Management, USAID

Stephen Guice: Policy Director for the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), Department of State

Jennifer Nupp: Supervisory Program Analyst, Office of Private Sector Exchange in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA/EC), Department of State

Linda Neilan Dus: Consular Officer, Advisory Opinions Division of the Visa Office of the Bureau of Consular Affairs (A/VO/L/A), Department of State

2:50 pm **Key University Concerns: E3 overview and response to questions via chat**

DeAndra Beck, Associate Dean for Research, International Studies and Programs, Michigan State University

Tim Dalton, Director, Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Sorghum and Millet, and Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University

Grace Lang, Higher Education Division Chief, E3/ED

Jennifer Nupp: Supervisory Program Analyst, Office of Private Sector Exchange in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA/EC), Department of State

Definitions

Exchange Visitor

Participant Training

USAID-sponsored J-1 Visa vs. university-sponsored J-1 visas

Structural and Operational issues

Health Insurance

Vehicle Ownership

Dependents

Allowance Rates

Work Authorization

Security Risk & Fraud Inquiry (SRFI)
Conditions of Sponsorship
Mission Orders
Transfer between visa types
Short-term Visitors
TraiNet
Tax Returns [for Exchange Visitors]
Stipends and Assistantships

Design and Implementation Issues

Gender equity and facilitating success of female students

Other issues

Discussion

4:05 pm Break

4:15 pm Public comment period

4:45 pm Closing remarks

Jim Ash, BIFAD

Robert Burch, E3 Bureau

Mark Keenum, Mississippi State University, BIFAD

5:00 pm Adjourn