

DENIAL OF RESEARCH VISAS/RESTRICTIONS ON ACADEMIC EXCHANGES

This list is the least comprehensive since foreign academics are reluctant to speak about their visa problems for fear of being denied a visa in future. There have also been several incidents of racism against African students which we have not listed here. Overall, the current atmosphere is not welcoming for foreign scholars.

S. No.	Date	Name of Person	Academic Event affected	Source
1.	June 2014	Penny Vera-Sanso	Denied entry into India; turned away at Hyderabad airport without an official reason being given; allegedly also told that she would not be allowed to enter the country for another two years.	https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/british-academic-denied-entry-into-india/article6134355.ece
2.	June 2014	Anastasia Gorodilova	Student of Brown University, denied visa to do an internship with South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre (SAHRDC); no official reason given.	https://www.himalmag.com/black-list/
3.	June 2014	Maria Petrova	Student of Queen Mary University of London, denied visa to do an internship with South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre (SAHRDC); no official reason given.	https://www.himalmag.com/black-list/
4.	July	Maxine Lange	Student of Monash University, denied visa to do an internship with South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre (SAHRDC); no official reason given.	https://www.himalmag.com/black-list/
5.	2014 2016	George Yeo	Resigns as Chancellor of Nalanda University citing Govt. Interference	https://thewire.in/education/george-yeo-reignation-nalanda-university

6.	2017	Patricia Sauthoff	Contract for Yoga course in Nalanda university not renewed because RSS objected to yoga being taught by a foreigner	https://thewire.in/education/false-say-yoga-isnt-political-american-scholar-whose-course-nalanda-university-cancelled
7.	July 2018	Pakistani Scholars denied visa to attend the AAS in Asia conference	Association of Asian Studies in Asia, New Delhi	https://www.asianstudies.org/aas-statement-on-2018-aas-in-asia-conference/
8.	2018	Visa denied to 30 Pakistani Medical doctors	Conference organized by Asian Pacific Association for the study of the Liver	https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20180712165201175
9.	2019	Restriction of Indian university collaborations with Chinese institutions	Prior approval from the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of External Affairs needed for academic and research collaboration, as well as student and faculty exchanges with China	https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=2019101013182324

10.	2020	Jacob Lindenthal	Visa revoked for participating in anti-CAA protest	https://thewire.in/external-affairs/jacob-lindenthal-german-student-caa-visa
11.	2020	Afsara Anika Meem	Bangladeshi Student Who Posted Photos of CAA Protest Gets Notice to Leave India	https://thewire.in/education/bangladeshi-student-visva-bharati-cao-protest-leave-india-notice
12.	February 2020	Kamil Siedcynski	Polish student told by the Foreign Regional Registration Office (FRRO) to leave India after he participated in an anti-CAA rally in Kolkata.	https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/jadavpur-university-polish-student-kamil-siedcynski-told-to-leave-india-over-anti-cao-protest-report-2187946?fbKamil
13.	February 2021	Scientists and researchers	Government order, now withdrawn, requiring prior permission from the MEA to participate in online international seminars	https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/government-withdraws-order-on-online-seminars/article33926659.ece

14.	March 2021	OCI cardholders	MHA rules - Special permission required for journalistic activities and research work	https://scroll.in/latest/988658/oci-cardholders-need-special-permit-to-take-up-journalistic-activities-says-mha-in-new-visa-rules
15.	September 2021	Organizers of and speakers at the 'Dismantling Global Hindutva' conference.	Harassed and intimidated by Hindu right-wing groups, both from India and the USA; letter written to the Home Minister of India seeking action against India-based speakers; aggressive campaign urging participating universities to withdraw their support.	https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/7/us-academic-conference-dismantling-global-hindutva-hindu-right-wing-groups
16.	March 2022	Filippo Osella	Denied entry and deported from Thiruvananthapuram airport; no explanations were provided by immigration officials; Osella alleged that officials also threatened that he would be restrained by security.	https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/i-am-shocked-and-saddened-kerala-my-second-home-filippo-osella-deportation-162284
17.	March 2022	Students from marginalized communities studying/researching abroad on government bursaries.	Change in National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) guidelines—students restricted from working on 'topics/courses concerning Indian culture/heritage/history/social studies on India'.	https://thewire.in/rights/withdraw-changes-to-national-overseas-scholarship-guidelines-academic-associations-scholars
18.	April 2022	Indian nationals and overseas Indian citizens with a degree from Pakistani educational institutions.	Joint public notice issued by UGC and AICTE— Indian citizens with degrees from Pakistani educational institutions not eligible for employment and higher studies in India.	https://thewire.in/government/pakistan-degree-holders-will-not-qualify-for-jobs-or-further-studies-in-india-ugc-aicte
19.	April 2022	13 academic fellows of the Australia India Institute, University of Melbourne.	Resigned citing repeated interference from the Indian High Commission in Australia.	https://thewire.in/world/citing-indian-high-commission-interference-13-academics-resign-from-australia-india-institute

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20.	July 2022	Lindsay Bremmer	Denied entry and deported from Chennai Airport; authorities cited 'immigration issues' as the reason.	https://thewire.in/rights/uk-architectur-e-professor-lindsay-bremner-denied-entry-into-india
21	July 2023	Ashok Swain	The OCI status of the Indian-Swedish academic was abruptly revoked in 2022 following which he challenged the decision. The Delhi High Court quashed the order stating that no reason was given for revoking the OCI status. In July 2023, the Indian consulate in Sweden sent Swain a fresh order canceling his OCI status because of his social media posts "hurting religious sentiments" and "attempting to destabilize the social fabric of India," without providing specific evidence to substantiate those allegations. When Swain further challenged this order in September 2023, the authorities claimed they had received "secret" inputs from security agencies. In February 2024, Swain's X (formerly Twitter) account was blocked in India and subsequently hacked.	https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/03/17/india-authorities-revoke-visa-privileges-diaspora-critics
22	February 2024	Nitasha Kaul	The UK-based Kashmiri-origin writer and professor of politics was denied entry to a conference by the Centre and harassed at the Bangalore airport for hours despite being invited by the Government of Karnataka to speak on democratic and constitutional values. Though no formal reason was given for the same by the MEA spokesperson yet it is alleged that Kaul was denied entry due to her criticism of the RSS.	https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/mea-clarifies-why-it-denied-entry-to-uk-writer-nitasha-kaul-to-india-101709209165298-amp.html https://www.rawstory.com/academic-freedom-declining-globally-index-finds/
23	April 2025	Apoorvanand	Denied leave by the Vice-Chancellor to deliver a talk on "the university under a global authoritarian turn" at the India-China institute in New York, purportedly because the	https://www.telegraphindia.com/india/in-delhi-university-denial-of-leave-to-professor-echo-of-trump-vs-free-thought-in-academia/cid/2094590

			professor refused to submit the text of his talk to the university.	
24	May 2025	MoU with Istanbul University	Vice Chancellor of Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University (CSJMU), Prof Vinay Kumar Pathak, cancelled the MoU, citing Turkey's stance following Operation Sindoor.	https://www.news18.com/education-career/nations-dignity-above-academics-kanpur-university-scraps-mo-u-with-turkish-university-9337810.html
25	May 2025	Ties with several Turkish universities and institutes	Against the backdrop of Turkey backing Pakistan, many public and private Indian universities have cut ties, such as IIT Bombay, IIT Roorkee, JMI, JNU, Lovely Professional University (LPU) etc.	https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/full-list-of-universities-that-have-snapped-ties-with-institutes-in-turkey-101747553301296.html
26	May 2025	Nitasha Kaul	Government of India cancelled her Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI), Kaul alleged she was being punished for her scholarly work on anti-minority & anti-democratic policies under the Modi government.	https://www.thenewsminute.com/news/vindictive-and-cruel-nitasha-kaul-hits-out-at-modi-govt-for-cancelling-her-oci