

Foreign Students on Student Visas

by

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In the news of late have been articles of foreign student being detained, and possibly deported, for taking part in political protests. The latest is a 30 years old Turkish student (Rumeysa Ozturk) who has been studying in the US since 2018 where she began working on a master's degree in psychology from Columbia University. After graduation she pursued a doctorate degree from Tufts University in child and human development. At the time of her detention by ICE she had about 10 months left to complete her doctorate.

While these stories may pull at your heart-strings, there are several things that you are probably not aware of. First off, the media, whether liberal or not, almost always does not have the full facts when creating their stories. **Note:** I did not say reporting. There is a very distinct difference between creating and reporting.

Second, we need to realize that the primary aim of the media outlets is to make money. Those outlets with the most sensational stories (note again, not reporting) and those that fit the particular social/political leanings of subscribers, will have a good revenue stream.

Third, by law, foreign students attending educational institutions in the US are supposed to have a current and active F-1 or M-1 student visa. Unlike tourist visas, student visas involve more paperwork, financial resources, and although not time limited, they are program/degree limited. Once the applicant graduates, if he/she wishes to go for another degree or advanced training, and new visa must be applied for.

Part of the visa application process is completing the Consular Application form, [DS-160](#). This form contains specific questions regarding security and background information and include:

- Have you ever been arrested or convicted for any offense or crime, even though subject of a pardon, amnesty, or other similar action?
- Have you ever been involved in, or do you seek to engage in, money laundering?
- Do you seek to engage in espionage, sabotage, export control violations, or any other illegal activity while in the United States?
- Do you seek to engage in terrorist activities while in the United States or have you ever engaged in terrorist activities?
- Have you ever or do you intend to provide financial assistance or other support to terrorists or terrorist organizations?

- Are you a member or representative of a terrorist organization?
- Have you ever ordered, incited, committed, assisted, or otherwise participated in genocide?
- Have you ever committed, ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in torture?
- Have you committed, ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in extrajudicial killings, political killings, or other acts of violence?
- Have you ever sought to obtain or assist others to obtain a visa, entry into the United States, or any other United States immigration benefit by fraud or willful misrepresentation or other unlawful means?

We don't know the answers that Ozturk or the other students who have been detained, however we can assume that they were all NO. If it is discovered that a student answered incorrectly or was later involved in any of the above, the visa is revoked.

In completing the required forms, the college or university also has to complete a form signifying that the applicant is accepted as a student at that particular school and for the program the applicant indicated. Acceptance is not automatic. The college/university reviews the applicant's academic qualifications along with other success indicators. What the acceptance means is that the applicant has the knowledge, capability, and intelligence to complete the educational program applied for.

Ozturk initially earned a master degree and then applied and was working on a doctorate degree, both of which indicate the knowledge, capability, and intelligence needed for degree completion. On March 2024, Ozturk, along with three other students, wrote a commentary criticizing Tuft's involvement in supporting Israel and citing, and calling for Tuft "[to cease vellication of BDS. . .](#)" According to [Canary Mission](#), Ozturk is a supporter of the [Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions \(BDS\)](#) movement, a terrorist support organization ([JCSFA](#))([Tablet](#))([Haaretz](#)).

Aside from the above, Ozturk is 30 years old, lives in Istanbul, Turkey, and should know better, given Turkey's disruptive political environment and that of the surrounding area for several decades.

"We gave you a visa to come study and get a degree, not to become a social activist that tears up our university campuses."

Secretary of State Marcus Rubio