

SEVP

STUDENT AND EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM

SEVP at a Glance

AWISA: November 2016

Presentation Overview

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HELPFUL RESOURCES

THE LATEST NEWS

Final Policy Guidance Update

Pathway Programs

- **Overview**
 - Third part of policy guidance series on pathway programs, conditional admission and English proficiency
- **Fact sheet**
 - Input pathway program information into the Form I-17
 - Properly issue Forms I-20 for pathway programs
- **Next steps for DSOs**
 - Ensure Form I-17 reflects school's current operations and programs
 - Submit a Form I-17 update to add a pathway program

Read the final policy guidance
at [ICE.gov/SEVP](https://ice.dhs.gov/SEVP)

Interim Final Policy Guidance Update

Evidence for Schools Not Meeting Eligibility Criteria

- **Overview**

- Clarifies acceptable additional evidence for schools that do not meet eligibility criteria defined in federal regulation
- Open for public comment until Nov. 12, 2016
- Submit comments to SEVPFeedback@ice.dhs.gov with the guidance title in the subject line

Access the interim final policy guidance on the Study in the States SEVP Guidance for Comment page

StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/SEVP-Guidance-for-Comment

Form I-17 Filing Evidence Process

What DSOs Need to Know

- **Beginning Oct. 1, 2016**
 - Electronically provide evidence at the time of submission in SEVIS
 - Scan and email evidence documents to SEVP
- **SEVP email addresses**
 - Initial SEVP-certification petition:
 - Email Initial.SEVIS@ice.dhs.gov
 - Update to existing Form I-17 petition:
 - Email Update.SEVIS@ice.dhs.gov
 - DSO changes:
 - Email FormI17SupportingEvidence@ice.dhs.gov

Introducing the SEVP Portal

- **Overview**
 - Tool for certain international students to enter information
 - Students will not have direct access to SEVIS
 - Ability to report personal and employer information
 - Used to report information for F-1 students on post-completion OPT
- **Launch**
 - December 2016 SEVIS release
 - Prepare now
 - Ensure students have accurate email addresses listed in SEVIS

Portal Functionality

- **Interfacing with SEVIS**
 - SEVIS pushes data to the SEVP portal
 - SEVP Portal sends an email to the student with a unique link
 - Student creates an account
- **DSO functionality in SEVIS**
 - Add, edit and remove employer and student information
 - Resend SEVP Portal account creation emails
 - Access reports on data changed by students
 - Receive an alert list when students make changes

Stay Informed

Upcoming SEVP Portal Communications

- **SEVP Special Report Webinar: SEVP Portal**
 - Save the date
 - Nov. 17, 2016, from 2 to 3 p.m. EST
 - Designed for DSOs and F-1 international students
 - Learn about the SEVP Portal and ask SEVP representatives questions
- **Study in the States**
 - Blog posts and social media announcements
 - Dedicated section with information for students and schools



Stay tuned to Study in the States for additional information

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

Upcoming Policy Guidance

- Change of ownership
- Student absence and school breaks
- Student employment
 - F-1 internship with an international organization
 - F-1 emergent circumstances
 - F-1 and M-1 general employment
 - F-1 on-campus employment
 - F-1 off-campus employment

SEVIS Enhancements

- **SEVIS Release 6.3 – Oct. 21, 2016**
 - Fixed issues associated with September 2016 SEVIS Release 6.29
- **SEVIS Release 6.31–Dec. 18, 2016**
 - SEVP Portal deployment in SEVIS

Check the SEVIS Help Hub for resources and information
about future SEVIS releases

StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/SEVIS-Help-Hub

Around SEVP



Extension of employment authorization eligibility for certain Syrian students



Field representative vacancies

DON'T FORGET...

STEM OPT

Reminders for DSOs

- **DSO responsibilities**
 - Determine completeness of the Form I-983
 - Validate student SEVIS information
 - Manage student records
- **Students and temporary staffing agencies**
 - Permitted to use staffing agencies to find a training opportunity
 - Agency cannot complete and sign the Form I-983
- **Employer site visits**
 - Check information related to student's STEM OPT employment
 - DHS will provide notice at least 48 hours in advance

The Form I-515A

Updates

- **Situation: Form I-515A and a new SEVIS record**
 - DSOs should not attempt to resolve a Form I-515A by generating a new SEVIS record
 - Assist students in complying with the Form I-515A
- **New noncompliance procedure**
 - “Intent to Terminate” notices
- **Questions?**
 - Email SEVIS.I515@ice.dhs.gov or contact SRC

Remedial Action Plans

Ensure Accurate Student Records

- **Remedial Action Plans for inaccurate student records**
 - Ensure student information is accurate and up to date
 - Common issues
- **Responding to a Remedial Action Plan**
 - SEVP will email Remedial Action Plans to DSOs
 - Email will provide information about how to resolve the deficiency

FACTS + FIGURES

Enhancing Customer Service

Serving Stakeholders

SEVP Field Representative
SINCE DEPLOYMENT IN MAY 2014



25,000+
SCHOOL VISITS



170+
CONFERENCES

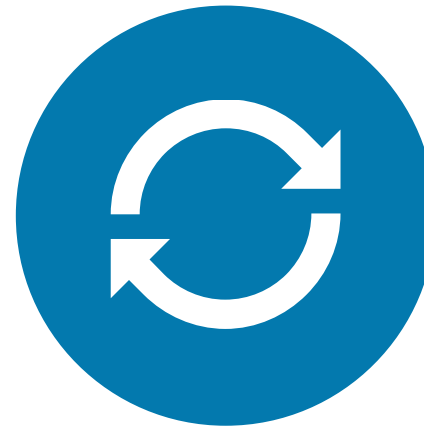
Enhancing Customer Service

Serving Stakeholders

SEVP School Certification Unit
SINCE BEGINNING OF FY 2016



38% DECREASE
in backlogged
recertification cases

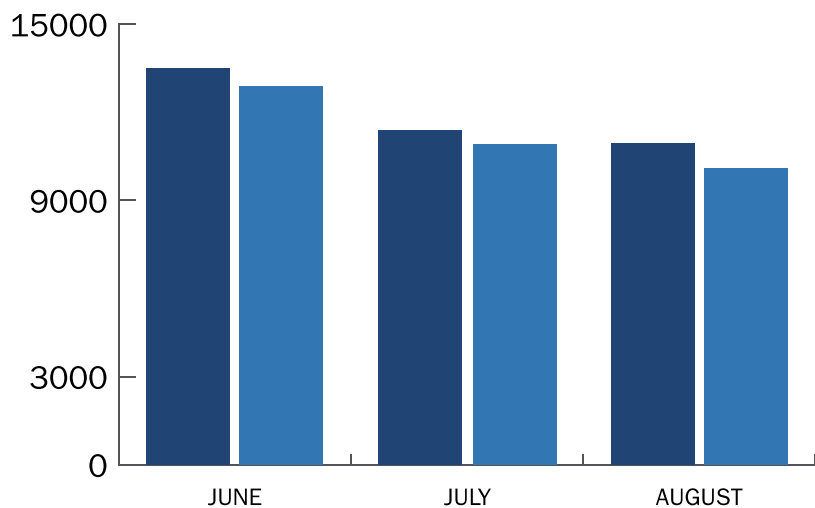


45% DECREASE
in backlogged
Form I-17 update requests

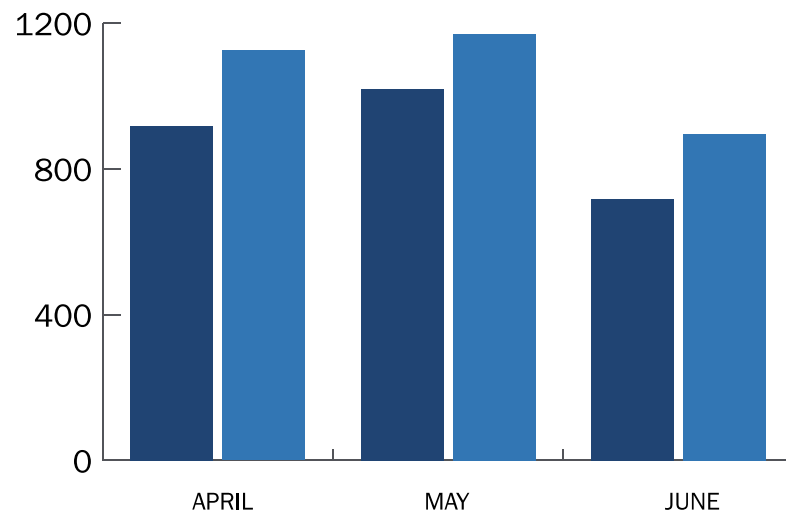
Enhancing Customer Service

SEVP Response Center

PHONE CALLS



EMAILS

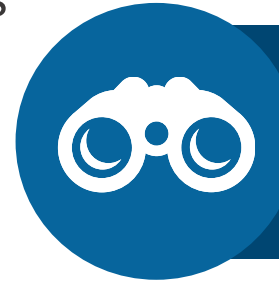


HELPFUL RESOURCES

Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming SEVP Webinars

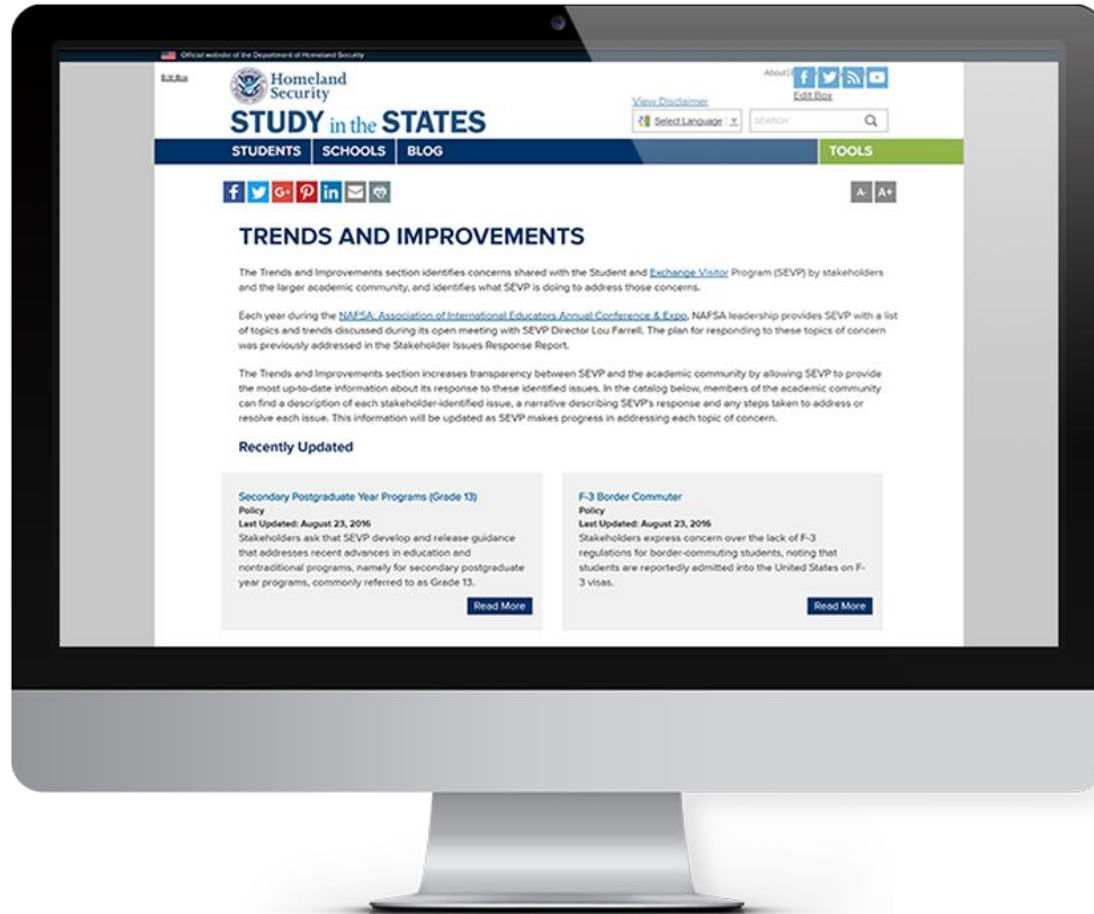
- **SEVP Special Report Webinar: SEVP Portal**
 - Nov. 17, 2016, 2–3 p.m. EST
 - Designed for international students
 - Learn how to use the SEVP Portal
- **SEVP InFocus Webinar**
 - Dec. 14, 2016, 2–3 p.m. EST
 - Designed for DSOs
 - Hear the latest program news and information



Learn more on the
Stakeholder Webinars
page

New on Study in the States

Trends and Improvements Section



STEM OPT Hub

Official website of the Department of Homeland Security

Homeland Security
STUDY in the STATES

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STUDENTS | SCHOOLS | BLOG | TOOLS | **STEM OPT HUB**

STEM OPT

Students, designated school officials (DSOs) and employers can use this page to learn about the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) rules and regulations for the optional practical training (OPT) extension for F-1 students with science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) degrees. Visit the [STEM OPT Extension Overview](#) to learn more.

Watch the [Form I-983, "Training Plan for STEM OPT Students," Tutorial](#) for a step-by-step guide to completing the Training Plan form.

In March 2016, DHS published amended F-1 nonimmigrant student regulations on OPT for certain students with STEM degrees from U.S. institutions of higher education. The amended regulation, which provides for an extension of the OPT period by 24 months (a STEM OPT extension), will go into effect on May 10, 2016.

Interested F-1 students must apply for and receive an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

TRANSITION PLAN

Transition Plan Overview
Students with STEM OPT Applications Pending on May 10, 2016
Students with Existing 17-Month STEM OPT EADs on May 10, 2016

STUDENTS

Students: Determining STEM OPT Extension Eligibility
Students: STEM OPT Reporting Requirements

EMPLOYERS

Why STEM OPT is Good for Small Business
Employer Site Visits
Employers: STEM OPT Reporting Requirements

TRAINING PLAN

Form I-983 Overview
Students and the Form I-983
DSOs and the Form I-983
Employers and the Form I-983

SCHOOLS

DSOs: Recommending Students for the STEM OPT Extension
DSOs: STEM OPT Reporting Requirements

MORE RESOURCES

STEM OPT Frequently Asked Questions
Eligible CIP Codes for the STEM OPT Extension

QUESTIONS? For general and case-specific questions, call 703-603-3400 or email SEVP@ice.dhs.gov and include STEM OPT in the subject line. Our offices are open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET, except holidays.

Form I-983 video tutorial

Transitioning to 24-month extension

Information for students and employers

May 2016 regulation implementation overview

Form I-983 information

Information for DSOs

Additional resources

Pre-Submitted Questions from AWISA

We have had cases of students who inform us that they do not have a surname, in that case, is it still appropriate to separate the names? Could you please provide additional guidance for admissions personnel regarding when it is appropriate to use DSO discretion (i.e. only using the surname field)?

[SEVIS NAMES FAQ's](#)

Pre-Submitted Questions from AWISA

SEVP Draft Policy Guidance for Adjudicators 1306-02: Annual Vacation: “An F-1 student attending a school on a quarter or trimester calendar who takes only one vacation a year during any one of the quarters or trimesters instead of during the summer is in status during that vacation if the student has completed the equivalent of an academic year (see section 2.2) prior to taking the vacation.”

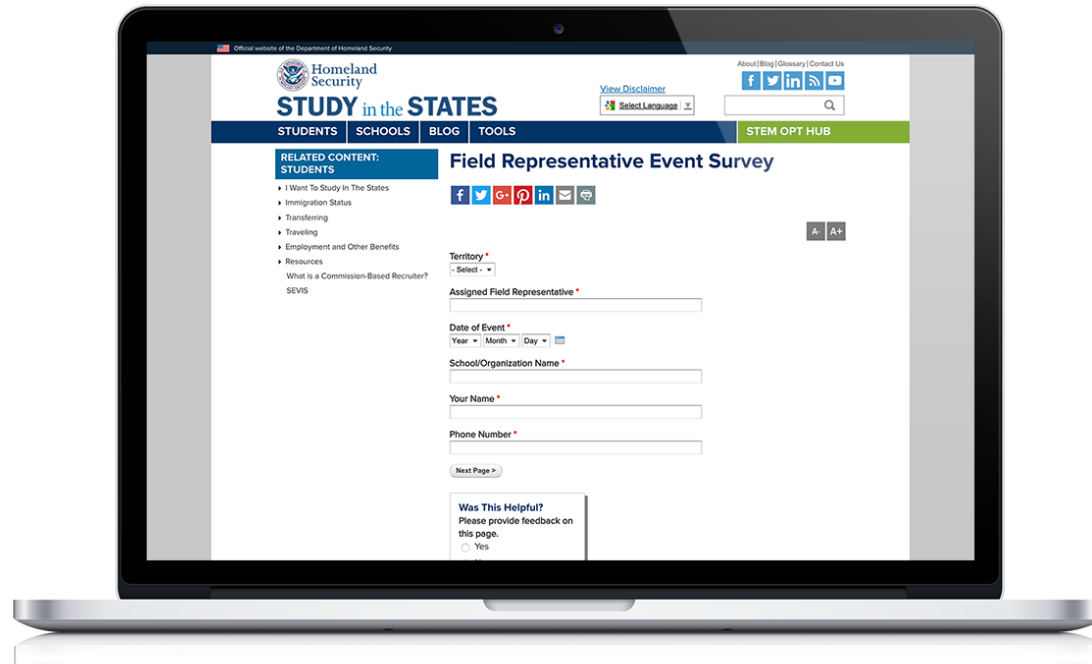
Can we anticipate that this will be finalized? If so, a change will need to be implemented for some quarter/trimester schools that consider summer the annual vacation. For example, students starting winter or spring quarters would be required to study summer, which is a challenge for Washington State community colleges that offer drastically reduced summer schedules. Will there be a grace or time period allowed for schools to adapt? On the other hand, is there still a possibility, based on comments received, that SEVP is considering an alternative provision for schools operating on a non-semester system that consider summer the annual vacation institutionally?

CFR 214.2 (f) (5) (iii) Annual vacation. An F-1 student at an academic institution is considered to be in status during the annual (or summer) vacation if the student is eligible and intends to register for the next term. A student attending a school on a quarter or trimester calendar who takes only one vacation a year during any one of the quarters or trimesters instead of during the summer is considered to be in status during that vacation, if the student has completed the equivalent of an academic year prior to taking the vacation.

[Academic Year Guidance](#)

SEVP Values Your Feedback

- Provide feedback on this conference presentation
- Comments improve field representative performance



StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Field-Representative-Event-Survey

SEVP Contact Information



PHONE

703-603-3400
800-892-4829



EMAIL

Case-specific questions
SEVP@ice.dhs.gov

Technical issues
SEVISHelpDesk@ice.dhs.gov

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET, except holidays
Closed Wednesdays from 12:50 to 1:20 p.m.
for system maintenance and testing

Additional contact information at StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Contact-Us

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