



## Redesigned Form I-20 FAQs

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### Redesigned Form I-20

**Q: Will all current students need to be given a new Form I-20 using the new format or will the one they previously received allow for travel? Do we just use the new format for new students?**

A: Students can use the Form I-20 they were previously issued to travel. The form will remain valid until July 1, 2016.

**Q: Will the instructions currently on page 2 of the Form I-20 be revised to reflect changes in terminology, department names, etc.?**

A: Yes. The instructions on the form will be updated and moved to page 3. SEVIS is being modified to make it easier to update the instructions in the future. Combined with the permission of OMB to update the instructions, we will be able to make changes much more quickly.

**Q: Can SEVP consider NOT pre-printing the DSO name in the travel signature portion of the I-20 for an initial I-20?**

A: Due to strong DSO preferences, we will no longer pre-print the DSO name in the travel signature section of the Form I-20.

**Q: Will CBP be kept abreast of the Form DS-2019/I-20 changes, so secondary screening does not spike for unprepared officers?**

A: Yes. We are working closely with CBP to minimize any temporary confusion over the revised forms. The revised forms will make it easier for CBP officers to identify the SEVIS ID and the appropriate class of admission.

**Q: Will consular affairs be kept abreast of the Form DS-2019/I-20 changes?**

A: Yes. We are communicating with consular affairs. They know there will be old and new versions of the form. They understand that the new version and what is in SEVIS could be different.

**Q: Will we need to print out new revised Forms I-20 or DS-2019 for all current nonimmigrants right after the forms have been revised? Alternatively, will we be able to print out revised forms only as needed (for example, when the SEVIS record is updated)?**



A: There will be a phase-in period before the new forms are required. You will not have to print out revised forms simply because the form changed.

Students must have the new version of the Form I-20 by July 1, 2016.

**Q: How will the revised forms affect admissions season and visa applications over the summer?**

A: We hope it will be a minimal impact. We will not require that people have the new forms for either admissions or visa applications. We are working closely with CBP and with consular affairs to make the transition as smooth as possible. We cannot say there will not be any problems, because many people are involved in the process; but there will be enough of an outreach, so that most people should know about the new form. If one or two students or exchange visitors run into a glitch, we will be able to take care of it. We do not anticipate massive issues.

**Q: Will the new Form I-20 be two pages or still be three?**

A: It will be three pages; however, we are re-ordering the pages so the instructions are on the third page, instead of the second page.

**Q: Will the Form I-20 state that students 14 and older do not need parental signatures?**

A: That is a policy issue as to whether or not a student needs the parent's signature. Currently, we have not changed the language and the age is 18 years old.

**Q: Will the new Form I-20 include SEVIS I-901 fee payment, date of U.S. entry, and visa issuance information?**

A: No. We are not changing any of the information that we put on the page, other than adding the new names.

**Q: Will the third page of the Form I-20 be required for entry to the U.S.?**

A: No. The instructions will be on the third page.

**Q: Will students still need a travel signature?**

A: Yes. We are looking at the possibility of putting in an electronic signature, but those plans are still in the talking phase. Until then, a travel signature will be required.

**Q: What date will the Form I-20 changes happen? And when that happens are we required to reprint all Forms I-20, or is that optional?**

A: The new Form I-20 will be available after the June 26, 2015 release. There is no requirement to reprint Forms I-20 immediately. You can make decisions based on individual cases. However, all students and exchange visitors must be transitioned to the new form by July 1, 2016.

**Q: Will SEVP provide a handout or something that DSOs can include to students to inform and update them about the new Forms I-20 and DS-2019? It would be nice for the students and EVs to have something official that comes from SEVP about these new forms.**



A: Yes. A fact sheet on the redesigned Form I-20 have been created and is available on Study in the States.

**Q: Is the way of issuing the new Form I-20 the same or do we need training?**

A: The process for issuing the Form I-20 will be the same.

We are developing a new reprint functionality, which will allow you to request a reprint of multiple Forms I-20. You will be able to select subsets of students and have all the forms print at one time. We will provide training on the multiple reprint function; but the process of creating a Form I-20 will be the same. You will still be able to print from the student's page.

**Q: The June release and Form I-20 update will fall when the majority of our students are on summer vacation and potentially out of the country. What would be the impact on them coming back in August, if they have the old Form I-20?**

A: There should be no impact. They should be able to enter the United States without an issue. That is assuming they would be able to come in without an issue anyway. If they had an issue before, they will still have an issue.

**Q: It sounds like the Form I-20 and SEVIS may be unavailable for a period during June. Is that correct?**

A: When we do a release, we take SEVIS down for a period of time; generally, 4-8 hours. It may be a little longer for the June 2015 release, because it is a larger release than normal. We deploy our releases on Friday evenings at 8:00 PM. It will be finished by Sunday at the very latest. We will let you know if it will be longer than 24 hours.

**Q: Will data required for creating a Form I-20 also be revised?**

A: For the most part, the data collected will not change. We will implement new name and U.S. address standards. Other than having information validated against different business rules, the actual information being collected is not different. The Form I-20 is going to look different; but the only difference is that the information is re-arranged visually, and we are adding names. We are also adding more names on the Form DS-2019. While it may look to you that many changes were made, there are no changes in the actual information. The Form I-20 creation process will not change.

**Q: Can we email the Form I-20 to students?**

A: No. Students will still need a hard copy of the Form I-20 with original signatures.

**Q: How will we access the new form?**

A: SEVIS will generate the forms in the same way it generates the current form.

**Q: Will there be more signature spaces on the new form?**

A: No. There will not be more signature spaces.



## Batch Processing

**Q: Will the new Forms I-20 and DS-2019 updates affect the batch process?**

A: The form updates do not affect the batch process. The batch process is about collecting the information. Those changes are already in the batch testing and are being tested. The only difference is that when you get a form through batch, you will get a new version of the form, instead of the old version.

## Interfaces

**Q: Will other government entities (SSA, DMVs, etc.) be told and have a preview of the new forms, so they know it is a legitimate form, which looks different from current forms?**

A: Yes. We are working with the other agencies. We are reaching out to SAVE, SSA, and DMVs. There will be a federal register notice about the new form. We will also have information on Study in the States that will show what the acceptable forms look like. There will be a period of time when both forms will be acceptable.

**Q: Do the DMVs have access to SAVE similar to SSA, and therefore have some level of interface with SEVIS?**

A: They can access information from SAVE. SAVE is available to all DMVs. Some access it; some do not.

## Form I-20 Travel Authorization Signatures

**Q: Do we have to have to sign the Form I-20 for a student to enter the country, if they leave for summer break?**

A: DSOs should use their judgment to determine if a travel signature is needed. If the travel signature is old, a new one should be considered. Note that the travel authorization will now be on the SECOND page.

**Q: Since DSO names will not be pre-printed on the Form I-20, will SEVIS no longer pre-print a date there as well?**

A: Correct. NO information will be pre-printed on the travel authorization section.