Government Voices
Webinar Series

Exploring the International Student Life Cycle

CBP | Dept. of State | SEVP | USCIS

Weds., Jan. 31, 2018
2 to 3 p.m. EST

- Welcome to today's Government Voices Webinar
- The webinar will begin promptly at 2 p.m. EST
- Audio will stream through your computer speakers
- Please take a moment to answer the poll questions on your screen

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Housekeeping Notes

- **Hyperlink appendix**
  - Contains links to all web pages mentioned today
- **Other documents available for download**
  - PDF of today's PowerPoint
  - Glossary
- **Technical difficulties pod**
  - Report technical difficulties experienced during webinar

Today's Presenters

- **Laura Stein**
  - Visa Policy Analyst, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs
- **Mary Herrmann**
  - Division Chief of Public Engagement, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
- **Jeni Best**
  - Program Manager, U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- **Barry Kobe**
  - Team Lead, Student and Exchange Visitor Program
- **Marissa Tinsley**
  - Panel Moderator

Presentation Overview

1. International Student Life Cycle
2. Intragovernmental Collaboration Spotlight
3. Helpful Resources
4. Contact Information

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LIFE CYCLE

Preparing to Study

ACCEPTANCE TO AN SEVP-CERTIFIED SCHOOL

- DSOs input accepted student information into SEVIS
- DSOs send signed Form I-20 to the student
- Students pays the I-901 SEVIS Fee
  - FMJFee.com
  - I-901 SEVIS Fee Payment Tutorial

Ask the Audience

QUIZ

When should students apply for a visa?

Dept. of State

Visa Application

INITIAL PROCESS

- **Applying for a visa**
  - Applicant receives documentation from school or program sponsor
  - Applicant makes appointment at nearest U.S. embassy or consulate
  - Applicant prepares for visa interview
- **Tips for prospective students**
  - Consult Travel.State.gov for information
  - Apply as early as possible to schedule a visa interview
  - Consular officers do their best to ensure students receive a visa with enough time to arrive for their program of study

Visa Interview

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- **Prospective students must have the following at their visa interview:**
  - Form I-20
  - Valid passport
  - Photo
  - Visa application fee receipt
  - Confirmation page of their Form DS-160 visa application
  - Additional documentation suggested on local embassy or consulate website

Visa Interview

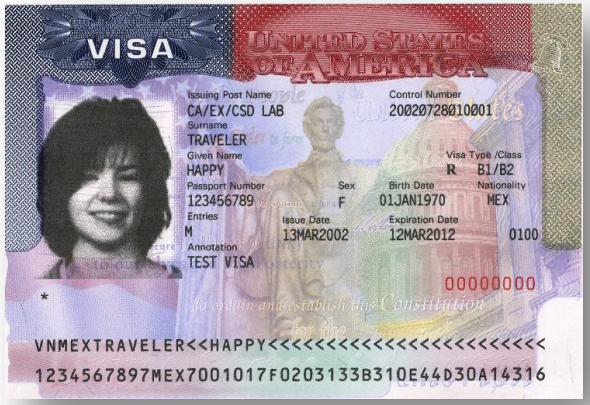
WHAT STUDENTS CAN EXPECT

- **Four factors focused on during interview:**
  - Who the applicant is
  - What the applicant wants to do
  - How the applicant plans to fund their study
  - What the applicant intends to do once they complete their program
- **Official information about visa interviews available at:**
  - Travel.State.gov
  - Study in the States

Visa Issuance

POSSIBLE OUTCOMES

- **Visa issued**
  - Student receives a visa
- **Visa refused**
  - Common reasons for refusal



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Ask the Audience

QUIZ

What sources should DSOs direct students to for more information about applying for a student visa?

Dept. of State

Change of Status

WHAT TO KNOW

- **File Form I-539 before authorized period of stay expires**
  - Must be accepted by an SEVP-certified school and receive a signed Form I-20
- **May apply to change visa status if nonimmigrant:**
  - Was lawfully admitted to the United States with a nonimmigrant visa
  - Maintained valid nonimmigrant status
  - Has not violated conditions of nonimmigrant status
  - Has not committed any crimes that make them ineligible

Reinstatement of Status

WHAT TO KNOW

- **For individuals wishing to re-establish their student status**
  - File request to USCIS using Form I-539
    - Submit with Form I-20
- **For reinstatement, student:**
  - Has not been out of status for more than five months
  - Does not have a record of repeated violations
  - Is currently pursuing or intends to pursue a full course of study
  - Has not engaged in unlawful conduct
  - Is not under deportation status

Intragovernmental Support

SEVIS INTERFACE

- SEVIS automatically emails decision to PDSO and DSO who requested reinstatement
- Reinstatement approved
  - DSO changes SEVIS record status from Terminated to Active via correction request
- Reinstatement denied
  - SEVIS record status remains in Terminated status

Arriving in the United States

PORT OF ENTRY PROCESS

- **At the port of entry**
  - Review all documents for validity
  - Query for record in nonimmigrant data systems
- **Secondary inspection**
  - More time and systems to review all available records
  - If correctable issues arise, CBP issues a Form I-515A
- **Tips to share with students**
  - Hand carry important documents

Intragovernmental Support

SEVIS INTERFACE

- ADIS and SEVIS
  - CBP officers pull student information from SEVIS
  - Arrival information sent to SEVIS via ADIS
  - SEVIS and ADIS interface improvements

Working in the United States

REMINDERS

- **F-1 students:**
  - During the first academic year:
    - May not participate in off-campus employment
    - May participate in on-campus employment in certain circumstances
  - After the first academic year:
    - May participate in off-campus employment
- **M-1 students:**
  - Cannot engage in practical training until after completion of a course of study

Working in the United States

PRACTIAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- **OPT must be directly related to F-1 student's area of study**
  - Can apply for up to 12 months of employment authorization
  - Begin OPT once USCIS approves Form I-765 and receives EAD
  - CLAIMS and SEVIS automatically update with approval or denial
- **STEM OPT available to F-1 students who meet requirements**
  - Can apply for up to 24 months of post-completion OPT
- **Employment-related resources**
  - Located in hyperlink appendix

Traveling on a Student Visa

DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

- **Suggestions for DSOs**
  - Update deactivated or canceled records for students who are traveling
  - Remind students Form I-20 endorsement is only valid for one year
  - Every inspection at a U.S. port of entry is unique
- **SEVP support**
  - Resources for students on Study in the States
  - Students can call SRC while traveling

Completion of a Program of Study

- **F-1 students have 60 days to:**
  - Apply and be accepted to a new academic program
  - Apply for a change in admission classification
  - Travel within the United States
  - Prepare to depart the United States
- **M-1 students have 30 days to:**
  - Apply for a change in admission classification
  - Travel within the United States
  - Prepare to depart the United States
- **SEVIS autocompletes student records after grace period passes**

INTRAGOVERNMENTAL COLLABORATION SPOTLIGHT

Collaboration

WORKING GROUPS AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

- **Working groups**
  - Share information
- **Knowledge sharing**
  - Conduct intragovernmental training
  - Collaborate on broader policy decisions
  - Co-present at stakeholder conferences and events

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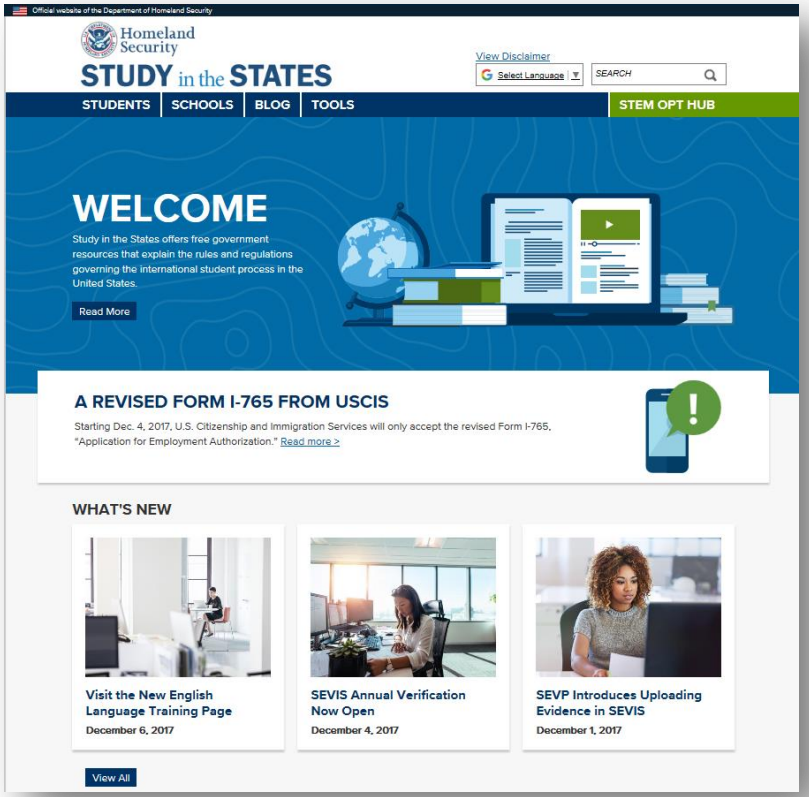
Collaboration

STUDY IN THE STATES

- **Study in the States**
  - Partner agency websites
  - Government partner blogs
  - Resource pages
  - Government partner webinars
  - Government Voices Webinar Series



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Collaboration

SYSTEM INTERFACE

- Work together to ensure system integrity
- Teams meet to look at specific interfaces
- SEVIS is the conduit for student data
  - Informs consular affairs visa interviews
  - Used in U.S. port of entry queries
  - Sent to CLAIMS
- DSOs: ensure SEVIS data is accurate and up to date
  - Report changes to student information within 21 days

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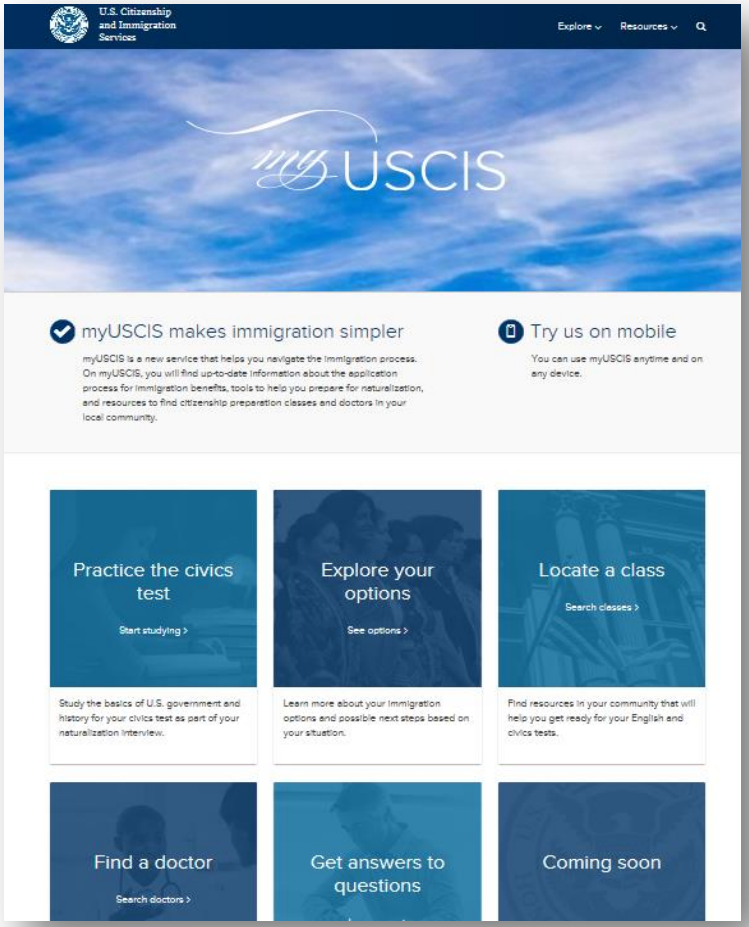
HELPFUL RESOURCES

Resources

USCIS

- **USCIS main website**
  - Immigration news and reminders
- **myUSCIS**
  - Navigate the U.S. immigration process
- **USCIS.gov/Tools**
  - Submit online inquiry, change address, check case status
- **USCIS processing times site**
  - Estimated processing times
- **SAVE Case Check**
  - Follow the progress of a SAVE verification check
- **Avoid Scams Initiative**



USCIS

Ask the Audience

POLL

Which of the following USCIS resources have you used? Please select all that apply.

Resources

CBP

- **CBP main website**
  - Travel information and news
- **For International Visitors**
  - Travel tips and reminders
- **DHS TRIP**
  - Inquiries about port of entry experiences
- **Form I-94 website**
  - Apply for or retrieve the Form I-94 online

CBP

Ask the Audience

POLL

Is the Form I-94 website is user friendly?

Ask the Audience

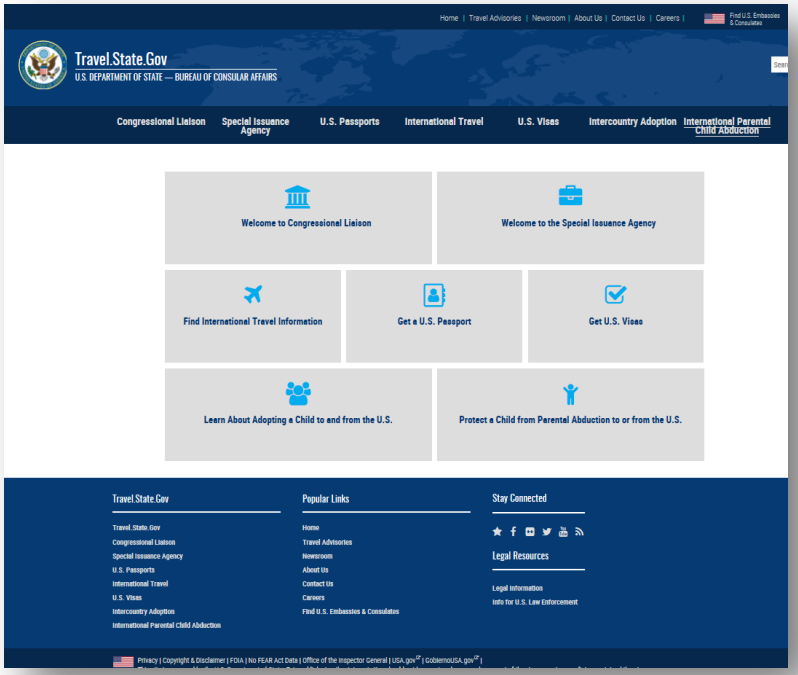
POLL

Do you think the Form I-94 travel history website is useful?

Resources

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

- **EducationUSA**
  - Locate a regional advisor and resources for studying in the United States
- **Travel.State.gov**
  - Consular Affairs travel resources
- **Visa Status Check**
  - Check U.S. visa application status



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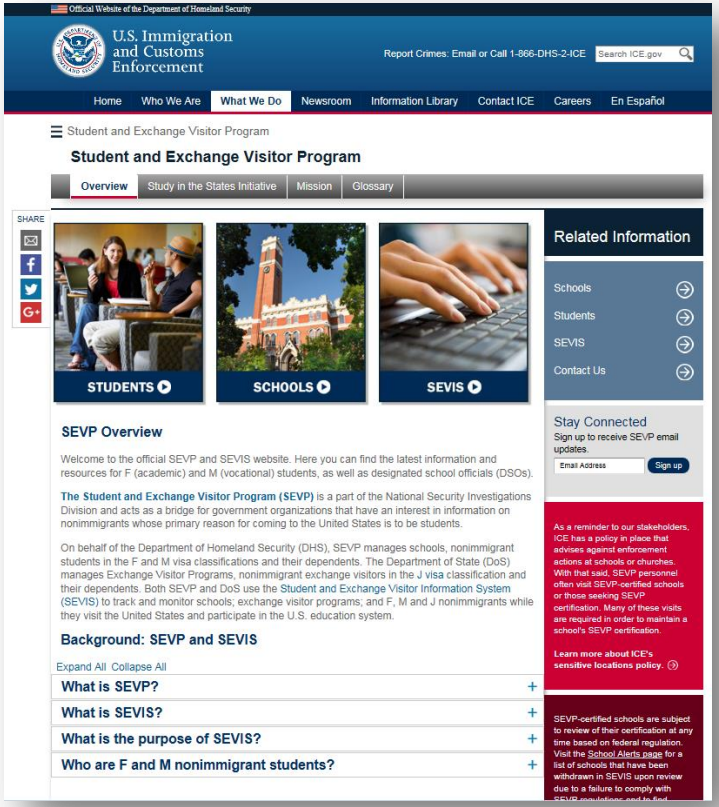
Resources

SEVP

- **Study in the States**
  - Information for F and M students
  - Information for SEVP-certified schools
  - Webinars
  - Blog posts
- **ICE.gov/SEVP**
  - SEVP policy and regulation
  - SEVP-certified school operating instructions



Ask the Audience

POLLS

Do you use Study in the States as a starting point when seeking answers to questions about the rules and regulations governing the international student life cycle?

Do you trust the information on Study in the States?

Do you recommend Study in the States resources to students, parents or colleagues?

Ask the Audience

POLLS

If you do recommend Study in the States, what types of resources are you sharing? Select all that apply.

If you do not recommend Study in the States resources, which others do you recommend to your students? Select all that apply.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Intragovernmental Panel

ENTITY CONTACT INFORMATION

Dept. of State

Case-specific questions:
Contact embassy or consulate
USEmbassy.gov

General questions:
Contact NVC
603-334-0888

SEVP

Case-specific questions:
SEVP@ice.dhs.gov

Technical questions:
SEVISHelpDesk@ice.dhs.gov

703-603-3400

800-892-4629

CBP

General questions:
877-227-5511

Report suspicious activity:
800-232-5378

USCIS

Public.Engagement@uscis.dhs.gov

800-375-5283

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