



# 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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## Exploring the International Student Life Cycle

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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**

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**Intragovernmental Collaboration Spotlight**

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**Helpful Resources**

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**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](https://www.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](https://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](https://travel.state.gov)
  - Study in the States



# 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

## *PRACTICAL 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*

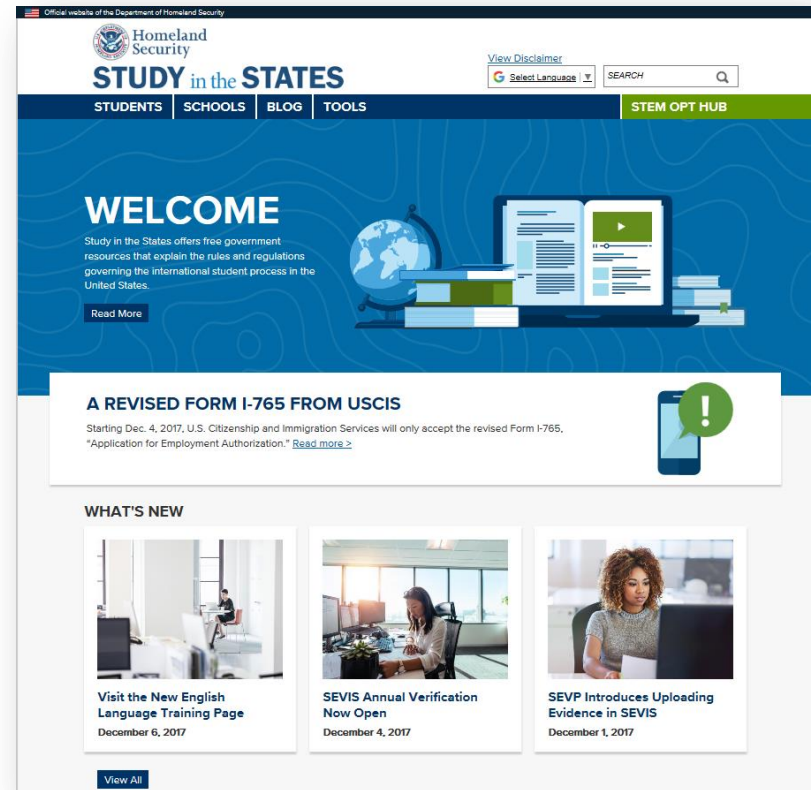
- **Working groups**
  - Share information
- **Knowledge sharing**
  - Conduct intragovernmental training
  - Collaborate on broader policy decisions
  - Co-present at stakeholder conferences and events



# Collaboration

## STUDY IN THE STATES

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



# 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

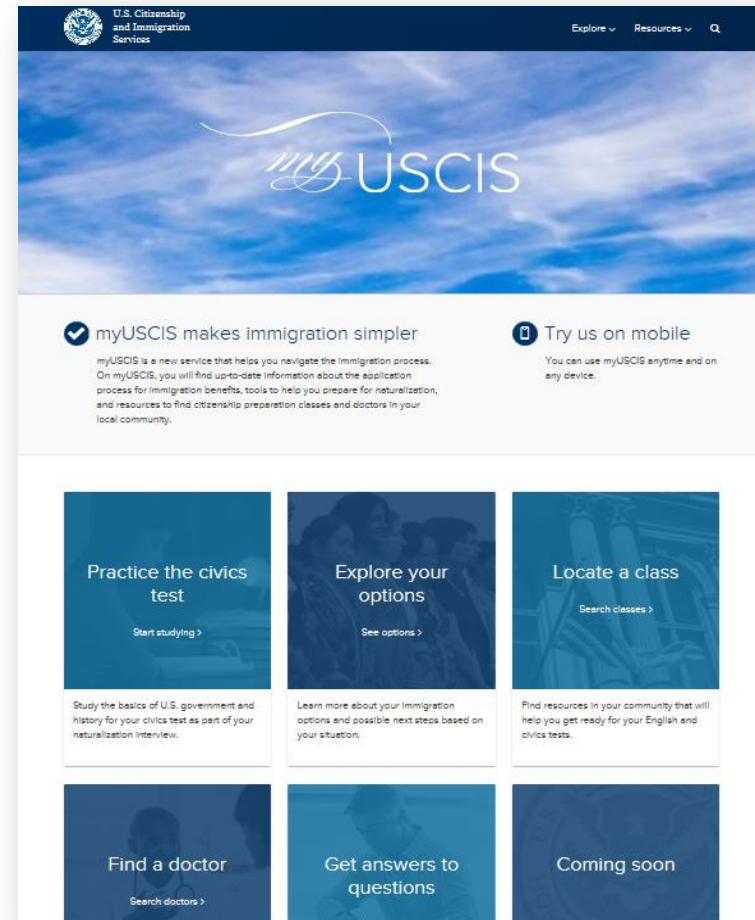
# HELPFUL RESOURCES



# 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.

USCIS

# 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

The screenshot shows the official website for travelers visiting the United States, managed by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The page features a navigation bar with links for 'HOME', 'APPLY FOR NEW I-94', 'GET MOST RECENT I-94', 'VIEW TRAVEL HISTORY', 'VIEW COMPLIANCE', and 'FAQ'. A central banner reads: 'Official Site for Travelers Visiting the United States: Apply for or Retrieve Form I-94, Request Travel History and Check Travel Compliance'. Below this, four main service tiles are displayed: 'Visiting the U.S. & Arriving via a Land Border?', 'Already Visiting & Need Proof of Visitor Status?', 'Need A History Of Your Arrivals & Departures?', and 'How Much Longer May I Remain in the U.S.'. Each tile includes a brief description and a corresponding action button. A 'Frequently Asked Questions' section follows, with four questions related to record access, obtaining records, information requirements, and reporting departures. The footer contains contact information for the CBP Info Center, a privacy policy link, and a disclaimer regarding the Paperwork Reduction Act.

# Ask the Audience

POLL



Is the Form I-94 website is user friendly?

CBP

# Ask the Audience

POLL



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

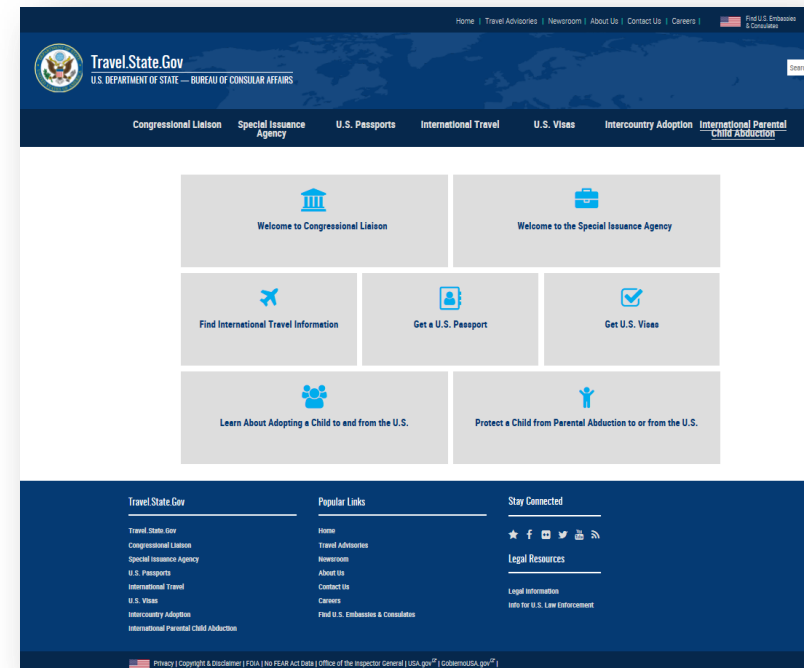
CBP



# 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



# 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

Official Website of the Department of Homeland Security

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Report Crimes: Email or Call 1-866-DHS-2-ICE Search ICE.gov

Home Who We Are What We Do Newsroom Information Library Contact ICE Careers En Español

Student and Exchange Visitor Program

Student and Exchange Visitor Program

Overview Study in the States Initiative Mission Glossary

SHARE

STUDENTS SCHOOLS SEVIS

Related Information

Schools Students SEVIS Contact Us

Stay Connected

Sign up to receive SEVP email updates.

Email Address Sign up

As a reminder to our stakeholders, ICE has a policy in place that advises against enforcement actions at schools or churches. With that said, SEVP personnel often visit SEVP-certified schools or those seeking SEVP certification. Many of these visits are required in order to maintain a school's SEVP certification. Learn more about ICE's sensitive locations policy.

SEVP-certified schools are subject to review of their certification at any time based on federal regulation. Visit the School Status page for a list of schools that have been withdrawn in SEVIS upon review due to a failure to comply with SEVP requirements and standards.

SEVP Overview

Welcome to the official SEVP and SEVIS website. Here you can find the latest information and resources for F (academic) and M (vocational) students, as well as designated school officials (DSOs).

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) is a part of the National Security Investigations Division and acts as a bridge for government organizations that have an interest in information on nonimmigrants whose primary reason for coming to the United States is to be students.

On behalf of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), SEVP manages schools, nonimmigrant students in the F and M visa classifications and their dependents. The Department of State (DoS) manages Exchange Visitor Programs, nonimmigrant exchange visitors in the J visa classification and their dependents. Both SEVP and DoS use the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) to track and monitor schools, exchange visitor programs, and F, M and J nonimmigrants while they visit the United States and participate in the U.S. education system.

Background: SEVP and SEVIS

Expand All Collapse All

What is SEVP? +

What is SEVIS? +

What is the purpose of SEVIS? +

Who are F and M nonimmigrant students? +

# 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](http://USEmbassy.gov)



General questions:  
Contact NVC  
[603-334-0888](tel:603-334-0888)

### SEVP



Case-specific questions:  
[SEVP@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:SEVP@ice.dhs.gov)  
Technical questions:  
[SEVISHelpDesk@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:SEVISHelpDesk@ice.dhs.gov)



[703-603-3400](tel:703-603-3400)  
[800-892-4629](tel:800-892-4629)

### CBP



General questions:  
[877-227-5511](tel:877-227-5511)

Report suspicious activity:  
[800-232-5378](tel:800-232-5378)

### USCIS



[Public.Engagement@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:Public.Engagement@uscis.dhs.gov)



[800-375-5283](tel:800-375-5283)



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