



## Government Voices Webinar: Exploring the International Student Life Cycle Glossary

Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2018

**Arrival and Departure Information System (ADIS):** a data system that facilitates the identification and investigation of individuals who may have violated their admission status by remaining in the United States beyond their authorized terms of entry.

**Classification of Instructional Program (CIP):** the taxonomy system the U.S. Department of Education uses that serves as the basis for the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) optional practical training (OPT) extension.

**Computer Linked Application Information Management System (CLAIMS):** a software application designed to assist in the tracking of the N-400 Application for Naturalization.

**Curricular practical training (CPT):** training that an F-1 student participates in during a program of study; including alternative work/study, internship, cooperative education, or any other type of required internship or practicum offered by a sponsoring employer through cooperative agreement with a school.

**Designated school official (DSO):** a regularly-employed member of the school administration designated by the head of a Student and Exchange Visitor Program-certified school to provide recommendations to F and/or M students enrolled at the school regarding maintenance of nonimmigrant status, and to support timely and complete record keeping and reporting to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

**F-1 status:** a visa status for students eligible to enroll in academic programs in the United States including at colleges or universities awarding bachelor's, master's, doctorate or professional degrees; community or junior colleges awarding associates degrees; religious seminaries; fine arts conservatories; high school (grades 9-12), public or private; private elementary and/or middle school (K-8); or a language training school.

**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):** the federal agency dedicated to helping citizens and first responders build, sustain and improve the capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate all hazards.

**Form DS-160, "Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application:"** a form submitted electronically to the U.S. Department of State website. Consular officers use the information entered on the form to process the visa application and, combined with a personal interview, determine an applicant's eligibility for a nonimmigrant visa.



**Form I-17, “Petition for Approval of School for Attendance by Nonimmigrant Student:”** the form of a petition submitted and maintained by school officials electronically in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System for the Student and Exchange Visitor Program certification of the school to enroll F-1 and/or M-1 students.

**Form I-20, “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status:”** the form issued to an F or M nonimmigrant, used as authorization for admission in and maintenance of nonimmigrant status for the duration of their visit to the United States.

**Form I-94, “Arrival/Departure Record:”** an electronic U.S. Department of Homeland Security form issued to all nonimmigrants upon entry to the United States that is evidence of their admission and is used to document legal status in the United States, including length of stay.

**Form I-290B, “Notice of Appeal or Motion:”** a USCIS form used to file an appeal with the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) or file a motion with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office that issued the latest decision in a student’s case, including a field office, service center or the AAO.

**Form I-515A, “Notice to Student or Exchange Visitor:”** a form issued by U.S. Customs and Border Protection at the port of entry to students who arrive without all of their required documents. The Form I-515A allows students to temporarily enter the United States. They have 30 days to submit the missing information to the Student and Exchange Visitor Program before their status is terminated.

**Form I-539, “Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status:”** a form students use to request a change to another nonimmigrant visa status (F-2 to F-1, F-1 to H-1b, etc.), or to request reinstatement if they have fallen out of student status. M students also use this form to request to remain in the United States for a longer period of time, and to transfer to another Student and Exchange Visitor Program-certified school.

**Form I-765, “Application for Employment Authorization:”** an application for employment authorization, managed by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

**Form I-766, “Employment Authorization Document” (EAD):** a form sent by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to students who are authorized to work in the United States. The form lists the dates employment authorization begins and ends.

**Form I-983, “Training Plan for STEM OPT Students:”** a formal training plan that clearly articulates the science, technology, engineering and mathematics optional practical training student’s learning objectives and affirms the employer’s commitment to helping the student achieve those objectives.

**I-901 SEVIS Fee:** a fee all F-1 and M-1 students and most J-1 exchange visitors must pay prior to gaining F, M, or J status to support the administrative expenses of the Student and Exchange Visitor Program and the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System.

**Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE):** a U.S. Department of Homeland Security agency that promotes homeland security and public safety through the criminal and civil enforcement of federal



## U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

laws governing border control, customs, trade and immigration. Through the Student and Exchange Visitor Program, ICE helps secure the foreign student visa system.

**Immigration and Nationality Act (INA):** the basic body of immigration law.

**M-1 status:** a visa status for nonimmigrant students eligible to enroll in vocational or technical training programs, including those at community or junior colleges, vocational high schools, or schools that provide vocational or nonacademic training other than language training.

**Optional practical training (OPT):** training that is not an integral part of the established curriculum. OPT does not fulfill requirements of an F-1 student's program of study and successful program completion is not contingent on participation in OPT. OPT may include the following:

- Pre-completion OPT;
- Post-completion OPT;
- 24-month extension of post-completion OPT; or
- H-1B Cap-Gap.

**Principal designated school official (PDSO):** a designated school official (DSO) with added responsibilities to:

- Serve as the primary point of contact with the Student and Exchange Visitor Program on any issues that relate to school bona fides or compliance with regulations.
- Administer the F/M program at the school, keeping the school information in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) up-to-date, manage DSOs, oversee the management of student records and respond to SEVIS-generated alerts.
- Submit school certification and recertification packages.

**SEVP field representatives:** federal employees who serve as liaisons between the Student and Exchange Visitor Program and certified schools. They foster an understanding of regulatory adherence and Student and Exchange Visitor Information System data integrity. Fifty-eight field representatives are deployed across the United States.

**SEVP Response Center (SRC):** the primary contact at the Student and Exchange Visitor Program for nonimmigrant students, academic institutions, government users of the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), and the general public requesting guidance, data corrections and information on how to use SEVIS.

**Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM):** science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs, which are important to innovation and job creation in the United States.

**Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS):** an internet-based application that facilitates timely electronic reporting and monitoring of international students and exchange visitors, as well as their dependents, in the United States. This application enables schools and program sponsors to transmit electronic information to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of State throughout a student's or exchange visitor's program in the United States.



## U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

**Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP):** a part of the National Security Investigations Division that 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 U.S. Department of Homeland Security, SEVP manages schools, nonimmigrant students in the F and M visa classifications and their dependents.

**Travel Redress Inquiry Program (TRIP):** a U.S. Department of Homeland Security program that serves as a single point of contact for individuals who have inquiries or seek resolution regarding difficulties they experienced during travel screening at transportation hubs, such as airports or at U.S. borders crossings.

**U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS):** an agency within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that authorizes benefits for students and exchange visitors. Students can request benefits such as employment, extending their stay or changing status from USCIS.

**U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP):** a U.S. Department of Homeland Security agency that secures the borders of the United States, including airports, land borders and seaports. When entering the country, F and M students go through inspections with CBP officers and must present proper documentation.

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS):** a federal agency whose missions include preventing terrorism and enhancing security, managing U.S. borders, administering immigration laws, securing cyberspace and ensuring disaster resilience. Through Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Student and Exchange Visitor Program, DHS secures the student visa system.

**U.S. Department of State:** a federal agency that issues visas at U.S. consulates and embassies, and offers student-specific information on its websites. The Department of State also manages the J visa program within the United States.