



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

SEVP
STUDENT AND EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM

SEVP Ask the Experts Webinar
Form I-983 | Oct. 19, 2016, 2 p.m. EDT

Presentation Overview

1	INTRODUCING THE FORM I-983
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4	EMPLOYERS AND THE FORM I-983
5	HOT TOPICS IN STEM OPT
6	HELPFUL RESOURCES
7	QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Today's Presenters



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SEVP Strategic Communications Team

Asking the Audience



Who's watching
today

Are you a student, DSO or STEM OPT
employer?

INTRODUCING THE FORM I-983

Recap

STEM OPT Regulation

- **Before: 17-month STEM OPT regulation**
 - In effect until May 9, 2016
 - All STEM OPT extension applications adjudicated and approved before May 10, 2016, are subject to previous regulation
- **Now: 24-month STEM OPT regulation**
 - Went into effect May 10, 2016
 - Applications adjudicated on or after May 10, 2016, are subject to the 24-month STEM OPT extension regulation
 - Includes the Form I-983

Asking the Audience



Working with the
Form I-983

Have you filled out or dealt with the
Form I-983?

Snapshot

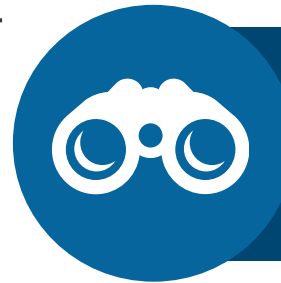
Form I-983 Responsibilities

- **Students**
 - Complete the Form I-983 with a prospective employer
 - Return to the DSO with employer’s signature
- **Employers**
 - Work with students to complete the Form I-983
 - Designate “Official with Signatory Authority” to sign the Form I-983
- **DSOs**
 - Check for completeness and keep in student’s record
 - Recommend STEM OPT in SEVIS if regulatory requirements are met

STUDENTS AND THE FORM I-983

Student Responsibilities

- **Apply for STEM OPT extension**
 - Must apply for the STEM extension before the initial 12-month OPT authorization expires and after the Form I-983 is completed
- **Complete Form I-983 sections**
 - Complete Section 1: Student Information and Section 2: Student Certification
 - Work with employer to submit Sections 3–9



Watch the Form I-983 tutorial for help with completing the form

Material Changes to the Form I-983

- **Material changes may include, but are not limited to, any:**
 - Change of the employer’s Employer Identification Number (EIN)
 - Reduction in compensation not tied to reduction in time worked
 - Significant decrease in hours per week trained, including a decrease below the 20 hour per employer per week minimum
 - Changes in student’s learning objectives
- **Any changes that render the original Form I-983 inaccurate are material changes**

Change in Employers

- **If beginning a new training opportunity within 10 days:**
 - Must submit a new Form I-983 to the DSO
- **If beginning a new training opportunity after 10 days:**
 - First report loss of employment to the DSO within 10 days of the event
 - Then submit new Form I-983 to the DSO

DSOs AND THE FORM I-983

DSO Responsibilities

Form I-983 Review

- **Determine completeness of the Form I-983**
 - Verify easily known information
 - Check that all questions are answered
- **Confirm that the Form I-983:**
 - Explains how training is directly related to STEM degree
 - Identifies goals for the training opportunity and explains how goals will be achieved
 - Describes a performance evaluation process
 - Describes methods of oversight and supervision
- **Ensure signature by an “Official with Signatory Authority”**

DSO Responsibilities

Record Keeping

- **Maintain documents in student's record, including:**
 - Student's Form I-983
 - Self-evaluations
- **Provide information to SEVP upon request**
- **Ensure data integrity**
 - Report instances of suspected fraud

Report suspected fraud through the HSI Tip Line
866-DHS-2-ICE

EMPLOYERS AND THE FORM I-983

Employer Responsibilities

- **Assists with Form I-983 completion**
 - Designates an “Official with Signatory Authority”
- **Assists with student reporting requirements**
 - Works with student to report any material changes to the student’s training plan, filling out a new Form I-983 if needed
- **Assists with required self-evaluations**
 - Reviews student’s annual self-evaluation
 - Signs to attest accuracy

Employer Expectations

- **The Form I-983 requires employers to answer four questions:**
 - How are the student's assignments with the employer related to the student's STEM degree?
 - How will the assignments with the employer contribute to the student making progress toward professional goals and objectives?
 - How will the employer evaluate the student?
 - How will the employer supervise the student?

Employer Certification

- Employers must attest on the Form I-983 that the student will not replace a U.S. worker
- Employers must certify that the terms and conditions of the STEM OPT training are commensurate with similarly situated U.S. workers
 - Duties, hours and compensation must be consistent with the range of terms and conditions the employer has or currently offers similarly situated U.S. employees

HOT TOPICS IN STEM OPT

Staffing Agencies

- **Students and temporary staffing agencies**
 - Students may use staffing agencies to find a training opportunity
 - Agency cannot complete and sign the Form I-983
- **Short-term training opportunities**
 - Student must complete a new Form I-983 for every new training opportunity with each employer
 - Must meet 20-hour minimum per week per employer requirement

Read about staffing agencies on the Study in the States blog
StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Blog

Remote Employment

- Distance/off-site employment is permissible under new regulation
- Students must list physical location of employment on the Form I-983
 - Where the student conducts their day-to-day duties
 - May be different from employer's primary address
- DSOs must input the physical employment location in SEVIS

HELPFUL RESOURCES

STEM OPT Hub

The screenshot shows the 'STEM OPT HUB' page on the Department of Homeland Security website. The page features a navigation bar with 'STUDENTS', 'SCHOOLS', 'BLOG', and 'TOOLS'. The main content area is titled 'STEM OPT' and includes a video tutorial section for Form I-983, a 'TRANSITION PLAN' section, and a 'TRAINING PLAN' section. Below these are sections for 'STUDENTS', 'SCHOOLS', 'EMPLOYERS', and 'MORE RESOURCES'. A 'QUESTIONS?' section is at the bottom. Callout lines from external text point to the video tutorial, the May 2016 regulation overview, the transition plan, the training plan, the students section, the schools section, and the additional resources section.

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

Asking the Audience



**STEM OPT Hub
on Study in the
States**

Have you used the STEM OPT Hub on Study in the States to learn about the regulation?

Stay Informed

Upcoming SEVP Portal Communications

- **SEVP Special Report Webinar: SEVP Portal**
 - Save the date:
 - Nov. 17, 2016, 2 – 3 p.m. EST
 - Designed for 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

Engage with SEVP

Stay Connected



KEY NEWS AND CONTENT

StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Blog

Publications

SEVP Spotlight

SEVP Outreach Bulletin



ENGAGE THROUGH CONFERENCES

Fill out the SEVP Event
Request Form at

StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Conferences



@StudyinStates



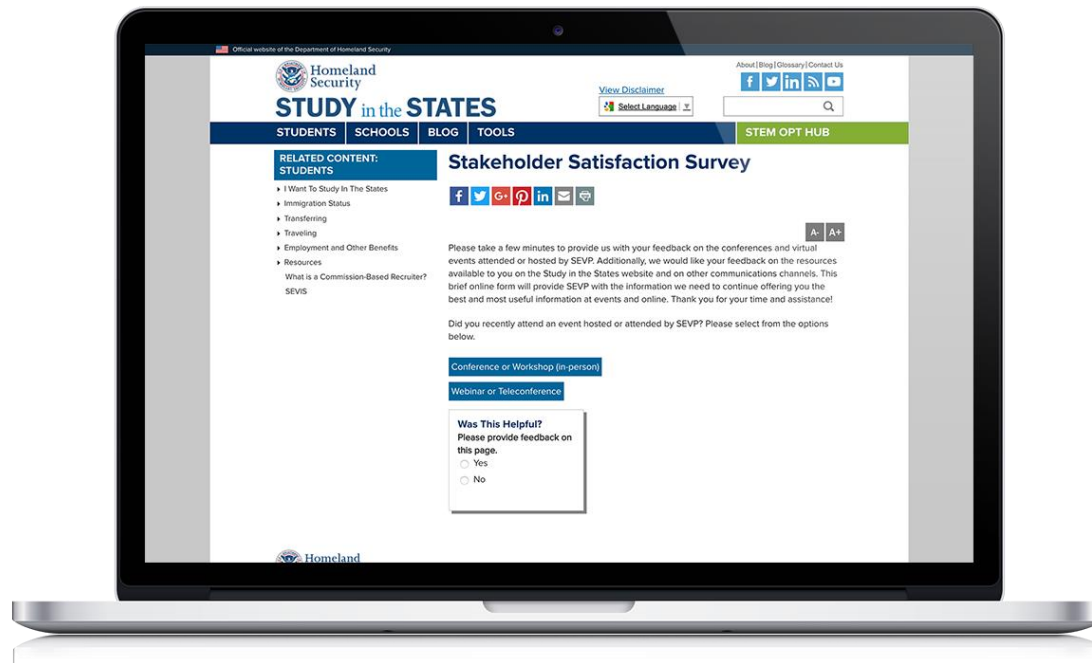
Facebook.com/StudyintheStates



Linkedin.com/Company/Student-and-Exchange-Visitor-Program

SEVP Values Your Feedback

- Provide feedback on this conference presentation
- Comments reviewed throughout the year



StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/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

DSOs: Contact your local field representative for questions about SEVP policies, processes and updates