



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

- Welcome to the Spring 2019 SEVP InFocus Webinar
- The webinar will begin promptly at 2 p.m. EDT
- Audio will stream through your computer speakers
- Please take a moment to answer the poll questions on your screen

SEVP
STUDENT AND EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM

Spring 2019 SEVP InFocus Webinar

May 9, 2019, 2 – 3 p.m. EDT



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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Housekeeping Notes

- **Download items in the Webinar Resources pod**
 - Hyperlink appendix
 - Presentation PDF
 - Glossary
- **Experiencing technical difficulties?**
 - Provide a description of the issue through the Technical Difficulties pod
- **Webinar recording and resources available on Study in the States after event**

Today's Presenters



Kimberly Large
SEVP Field Representative
Territory 15



Marissa Tinsley
Strategic Communications
Team

Dorian Davis
Moderator

Presentation Overview

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THE LATEST NEWS

2

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

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DON'T FORGET

4

FACTS + FIGURES

5

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Ask the Audience



Today's
Audience

Please select a response that best describes your current position

Ask the Audience



Today's
Audience

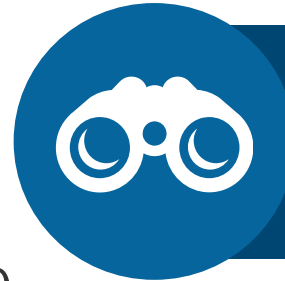
What type of school do you represent?

THE LATEST NEWS

GAO Audit

SEVP Response to GAO Recommendations

- **GAO published SEVP audit on March 18, 2019**
 - Audit focuses on potential fraud risks resulting from program oversight and school recertification
- **SEVP agrees with GAO's seven recommendations**
 - Plans to implement GAO recommendations by October 2020
- **Since 2012, SEVP has taken steps to prevent fraud**
 - New tracking tools and enhanced vetting procedures



REMEMBER:

View the complete audit on [GAO.gov](https://www.gao.gov)

GAO Audit

SEVP Plans to Implement GAO Recommendations

- **Recommendation one: Develop fraud risk profile**
 - Design and implement enhanced fraud risk framework
- **Recommendation two: Enhance use of data analytics**
 - Procure external support to identify fraud risks concerning school petitions for certification or recertification
- **Recommendation three: Hire additional staff**
 - Hire adjudicators to implement a revised two-year recertification process

GAO Audit

SEVP Plans to Implement GAO Recommendations

- **Recommendation four: Eligibility of DSOs**
 - Establish process to verify DSO eligibility information, such as lawful permanent residency and U.S. citizenship
- **Recommendation five: Eligibility checks for DSOs**
 - Implement comprehensive DSO background checks
- **Recommendation six: Mandatory DSO training**
 - Expand DSO training to develop advanced DSO training course
- **Recommendation seven: Fraud training for DSOs**
 - Develop and implement mandatory fraud training for DSOs

Ask the Audience



GAO Audit

DSOs: Have you reviewed the SEVP GAO Audit on GAO.gov?

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

News from CBP

Changes to the Form I-94

- **CBP switching to alphanumeric Form I-94 in May 2019**
 - Form I-94 users will need to adjust system changes to accept the new numeric format by late May 2019
- **New alphanumeric format:**
 - 11 total characters
 - [9-digit sequence] + [1 letter] + [1 digit]
 - Sample new Form I-94 number: 000468151A1

Learn more on CBP's website at
[CBP.gov/Travel/International-Visitors/I-94](https://www.cbp.gov/Travel/International-Visitors/I-94)

News from USCIS

What DSOs Should Know

- **USCIS published a revised Form I-539 in March 2019**
 - USCIS will reject forms with an edition date of Dec. 23, 2016, or earlier
- **USCIS published new Form I-539A in March 2019**
 - Replaces Supplemental A in previous versions
 - Form can only be submitted with Form I-539

Learn more on USCIS' website at
[USCIS.gov/I-539](https://uscis.gov/I-539)

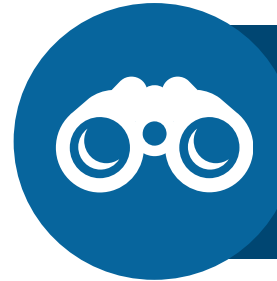
News from USCIS

Changes to the Form I-539

- **Each co-applicant on the Form I-539 must submit and sign a separate Form I-539A**
 - Form I-539A available on the Form I-539 webpage at [USCIS.gov](https://uscis.gov)
 - Parents or guardians may sign on behalf of children under 14
- **Applicant and each co-applicant must pay an \$85 fee**
- **Applicant and each co-applicant will receive a biometric services appointment notice with their receipt number**
 - Appointments scheduled at the Application Support Center closest to applicant's address

SEVP Portal Release 1.5

- SEVP Portal Release 1.5 launched in February 2019
- Includes SEVP Portal enhancements:
 - Password reset option for locked accounts
 - STEM OPT students can view self-evaluation requirements
 - Changes to email notifications

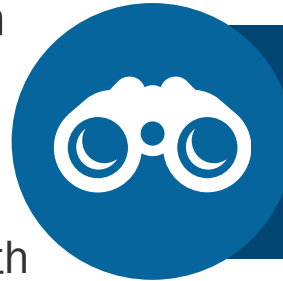


REMEMBER:
DSOs should be familiar with reporting timelines

For additional resources, visit the SEVP Portal Help section
StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/SEVP-Portal-Help

SEVP Portal Release 1.6

- SEVP Portal Release 1.6 launched in March 2019
- Introduced three new email notifications for students
 - Email address change confirmation
 - Confirmation email sent to both old and new email addresses
 - STEM OPT reminder notifications
 - Email sent 30 days before six-month validation due date
 - Email sent 30 days before annual self-evaluation due date

**REMEMBER:**

Students should review their reporting and self-evaluation deadlines

For additional resources, visit the SEVP Portal Help section
StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/SEVP-Portal-Help

SEVP Portal Release 1.7

- SEVP Portal Release 1.7 launched in April 2019
- **Addresses system errors and enables the portal to:**
 - Send reminders only to active STEM OPT students
 - Send reminders to students with Requested or Pending STEM OPT applications in the first 180 days of their authorization period
 - Stop sending reminders if report due dates are later than the authorization end date
 - Stop sending duplicate emails
 - Announce portal outages on the login page
 - Address issues with unavailable user history

For additional resources, visit the SEVP Portal Help section

StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/SEVP-Portal-Help

Reminders for School Officials

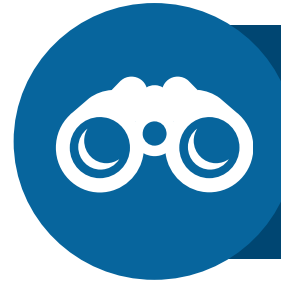
Updating a Locked Form I-17

- Schools with a locked Form I-17 must continue to report material changes to SEVP within 21 days of the change
- For PDSO or DSO changes:
 - Email FormI17SupportingEvidence@ice.dhs.gov
 - Reference SEVP Fact Sheet 8.1: Designated School Official Submissions
- For all other material changes:
 - Email SEVP@ice.dhs.gov
 - Provide all necessary evidence related to change

Access evidence guides and checklists at
[ICE.gov/SEVIS/Schools](https://ice.gov/SEVIS/Schools)

New Field Representatives Deployed

- **Field representatives will deploy in summer 2019 to:**
 - El Paso, Texas
 - Melissa Domblisky, FRU
 - New York, New York
 - Alexandra Chow, FRU
- **One remaining vacancy in:**
 - Omaha, Nebraska

**READ:**

April SEVP Spotlight for information on new field representatives

DON'T FORGET...

Be Aware of TOEFL Scams

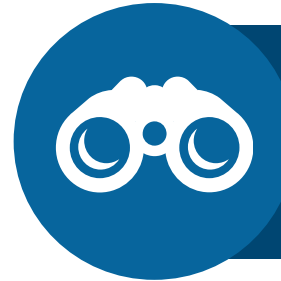
Reminders for DSOs

- Students should be wary of individuals who offer to take the TOEFL exam on their behalf
 - TOEFL fraud could violate nonimmigrant status
- Report TOEFL-related fraud to:
 - SRC
 - Educational Testing Service
 - HSI Tip Line
 - 866-347-2423
 - [ICE.gov/Tips](https://ice.dhs.gov/tips)

Be Aware of SEVIS Express

Reminders for DSOs

- SEVIS Express website collecting I-901 SEVIS Fee payments
 - Website is not affiliated with SEVP
- Only [FMJFee.com](https://www.fmjfee.com) is certified to collect I-901 SEVIS Fee payments
- Special payment instructions for certain African countries
 - Certified check
 - Money order
 - Western Union Quick Pay



REVIEW:

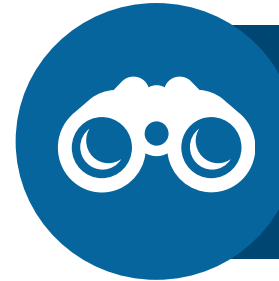
Instructions for paying the I-901 SEVIS Fee on News page of [FMJFee.com](https://www.fmjfee.com)

Send questions to the I-901 SEVIS Fee customer support
[ICE.gov/SEVIS/I901](https://ice.gov/SEVIS/I901)

STEM OPT Reporting Reminders

Six Month Reporting Requirement

- STEM OPT students must validate their SEVIS information and report changes to the Form I-983 to their DSO
- Students must confirm that SEVIS information correctly identifies:
 - Legal name
 - Residential or mailing address
 - Employer name and address
 - Status of current employment



REMEMBER:

The SEVP Portal sends a reminder 30 days before the report due date

STEM OPT Reporting Reminders

Twelve Month Reporting Requirement

- **STEM OPT students must submit assessments no later than 10 days after the end of their training period:**
 - Initial assessment 12 months after the STEM OPT start date
 - Final assessment that recaps training and knowledge acquired during the complete, 24-month training period
- **Students and employers must sign self-evaluation report prior to DSO submission**

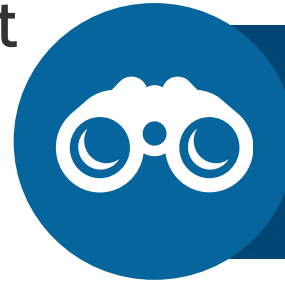
Learn more about STEM OPT reporting requirements
in the STEM OPT Hub

StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/STEM-OPT-Hub

Sign up for GovDelivery

Subscribe to Receive SEVP Updates

- SEVP distributes the SEVP Spotlight newsletter via email through GovDelivery
- Other program updates also sent via GovDelivery:
 - SEVP Monthly Newsletter
 - SEVP Outreach Bulletin



REMEMBER:

DSOs can subscribe to receive updates from other government partners

Subscribe to GovDelivery by submitting your email at
[ICE.gov/SEVP](https://ice.gov/SEVP)

Ask the Audience



GovDelivery
Outreach

Are you signed up for GovDelivery emails from SEVP?

FACTS + FIGURES

Study in the States Customer Feedback

Top Audiences

STAKEHOLDER INFORMATION



Top three audiences:

Prospective international students

PDSOs and DSOs

Parents or guardians of international students

Study in the States Customer Feedback

Information of Interest

STUDY IN THE STATES SEARCHES



Top three topics:

Becoming a Student in the United States

STEM OPT

I-901 SEVIS Fee

Ask the Audience



**SEVP Response
to Stakeholder
Feedback**

**Overall, how would you rate your
experience with Study in the States?**

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Resource for New DSOs

Download New Resource Guide

- Points new DSOs to useful information to identify resources and assist with reporting requirements
 - Creating an Initial Form I-20
 - Maintaining accurate SEVIS records
 - Record registration guide
 - SEVIS name standards
 - Proof of financial support
- Resources divided into three sections:
 - General resources
 - SEVIS resources
 - Contact information



REMEMBER:

Access this guide and other resources in the Study in the States Resource Library

SEVP Portal Resources for Students

- **SEVP Portal Help Section**
 - How to create an SEVP Portal account and other information
- **An Introduction to the SEVP Portal**
 - One page resource for students
- **SEVP Portal Videos**
 - Step-by-step overview of portal processes
- **Top Questions about the SEVP Portal**
 - Answers to top questions from students and school officials

**REMEMBER:**

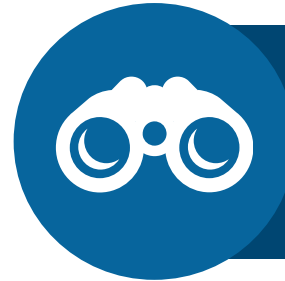
Tell students to add
do-not-reply.SEVP@ice.dhs.gov
to their email contacts

Learn more on the Study in the States Blog

StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/2019/04/Students-Visit-These-SEVP-Portal-Resources

Study in the States Facebook Chatbot

- Facebook Chatbot provides information to prospective and current international students on:
 - Studying in the United States
 - Finding an SEVP-certified school
 - Financial ability and financial aid information
 - Paying the I-901 SEVIS Fee
- Students can access the chatbot in two ways:
 - Clicking the “Send Message” button
 - Using the Facebook Messenger app on mobile devices

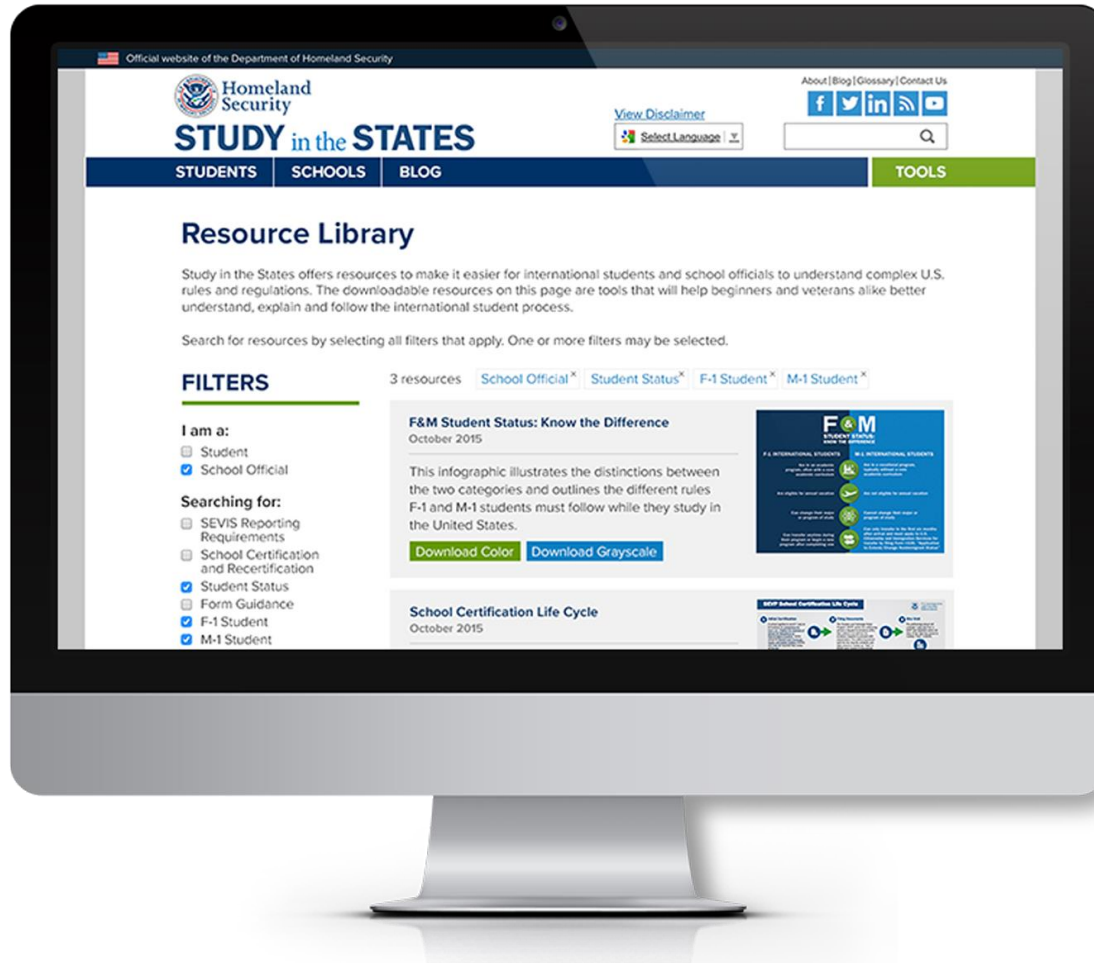


DSOs:

Tell your students about the Facebook Chatbot today!

Like Study in the States on Facebook to stay up to date with the latest news from SEVP

Resource Library



StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Resource-Library

Engage with SEVP

Stay Connected



KEY NEWS AND CONTENT

StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Blog

Publications

Available through GovDelivery

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 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 federal holidays
Additional contact information at StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Contact-Us

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



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

- Thank you for joining today's webinar
- Please direct any questions to SRC
- A webinar recording will be on Study in the States shortly
- Please take a moment to complete our feedback polls

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