

Government Voices Webinar: What to Expect at a U.S. Port of Entry Glossary

Wednesday, May 16, 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.

Border commuter students: a Canadian or Mexican national admitted to the United States as an F-1 or M-1 student under certain rules to enroll in a full course of study, albeit on a part-time basis, in an SEVP-certified school located within 75 miles of a United States land border.

Customs Declaration Form: a form issued by U.S. Customs and Border Protection that provides basic traveler information and information about items being brought into the United States at a U.S. port of entry, such as agricultural and wildlife products and prior farm visits.

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.

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-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.

J-1 status: the exchange visitor (J) nonimmigrant visa category is for individuals approved to participate in work- and study-based exchange visitor programs.

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.

NEXUS: the NEXUS program allows prescreened travelers expedited processing when entering the United States and Canada. Program members use dedicated processing lanes at designated northern border ports of entry, NEXUS kiosks when entering Canada by air and Global Entry kiosks when entering the United States via Canadian preclearance airports. NEXUS members also receive expedited processing at marine reporting locations.

Secure Electronic Network for Travelers Rapid Inspection (SENTRI): SENTRI is a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) program that allows expedited clearance for preapproved, low-risk travelers upon arrival in the United States. Participants may enter the United States by using dedicated primary lanes into the United States at southern land border ports.

SEVP Analysis and Operations Center (SAOC): a unit within the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) responsible for monitoring SEVP-certified school administrative compliance with the laws and regulations related to F and M nonimmigrants, and taking action to correct or stop noncompliance.

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.

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.

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

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 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Student and Exchange Visitor Program, DHS secures the student visa system.