

Government Voices Webinar: Campus Partnerships with DHS Glossary

Sept. 27, 2018

Counterterrorism and Criminal Exploitation Unit (CTCEU): Part of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Counterterrorism and Criminal Exploitation Unit (CTCEU) focuses on preventing criminals and terrorists from exploiting the nation's immigration system through fraud. CTCEU, formerly known as the Compliance Enforcement Unit, primarily investigates non-immigrant visa holders who violate their immigration status or terms of admission. CTCEU places the highest priority on scrutinizing the activities of known or suspected terrorists and terrorist associates, and on combating the criminal exploitation of the student visa system.

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 (kindergarten to grade 8); or a language training school.

Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI): The domestic intelligence and security service of the United States, and its principal federal law enforcement agency.

Field Representative Unit (FRU): A student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) unit established to enhance national security by fostering regulatory compliance and data integrity in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System. The field representatives serve as key resources and direct day-to-day liaisons between SEVP and SEVP-certified schools, and those schools seeking initial SEVP certification.

Homeland Security Investigations (HSI): Part of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) directorate uses its legal authority to investigate issues such as immigration crime, human rights violations and human smuggling; smuggling of narcotics, weapons and other types of contraband; and financial crimes,

cybercrime and export enforcement issues. ICE special agents also conduct investigations aimed at protecting critical infrastructure industries that are vulnerable to sabotage, attack or exploitation.

National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Coordination Center: A Homeland Security Investigations effort that ensures national security by protecting the public's health and safety, the U.S. economy and war fighters to stop predatory and unfair trade practices that threaten the global economy.

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

Kindergarten to grade 12 (K-12): Educational levels students enroll in before advancing to higher education institutions. U.S. students usually begin a formal educational program around age five or six in kindergarten. Children then complete grade levels one through 12 before attending college or university. F and M students may enroll in a private program for any length of time but may only attend a public high school for one year.

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 a school that provides vocational or nonacademic training other than language training.

Nationwide Suspicious Activity Report Initiative (NSI): A joint collaborative effort by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and state, local and territorial law enforcement partners that collects and shares reports of suspicious activity by people in the United States.

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.

Project Campus Sentinel (PCS): An outreach program that partners with educational institutions to improve communications between designated school officials and Homeland Security Investigations special agents by providing training to identify criminal activity and a mechanism to report Student and Exchange Visitor Information System exploitation and fraud schemes that compromise national security.

Project Shield America (PSA): An outreach program that assists industry and academic research institutions to better understand current U.S. export laws and aids the recognition, detection and resolution of illegal acquisition attempts of controlled and sensitive commodities, technology and data by foreign governments, companies or individuals.

Special Agent in Charge (SAC): Homeland Security Investigations field offices.

SEVP Response Center (SRC): The primary contact at SEVP 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 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 U.S. Department of Homeland Security, SEVP manages schools, nonimmigrant students in the F and M visa classifications and their dependents.

SEVP field representative: 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-six field representatives are deployed across the United States.

Project Campus Sentinel (PCS)
Project Shield America (PSA)
Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)
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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.