



# U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

- Welcome to the Spring 2018 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 2018 SEVP InFocus Webinar**

**May 3, 2018, 2 – 3 p.m. EDT**



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

**SEVP**  
STUDENT AND EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM

**Spring 2018 SEVP InFocus Webinar**

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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 after event**

# Today's Presenters



**Marissa Tinsley**  
Management and Program  
Analyst



**Kelly Pilleux-Petronia**  
SEVP Field Representative  
Territory 30

**Lauren Caricato**  
Moderator

# Presentation Overview

1

THE LATEST NEWS

2

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

3

DON'T FORGET

4

FACTS + FIGURES

5

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Provide feedback on this presentation at

[StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Survey](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Survey)

# Ask the Audience



Today's  
Audience

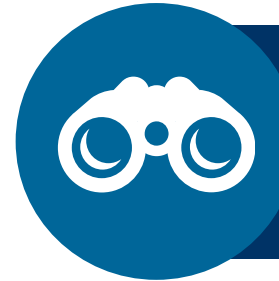
Please select a response that best describes your current position

# THE LATEST NEWS

# SEVP Portal

## *Overview*

- SEVP Portal deployed on March 23, 2018
- Reminders for DSOs and students:
  - Review practical training reporting requirements
  - Students and DSOs required to keep records up to date
  - Special considerations for STEM OPT extension



### DID YOU KNOW?

More than 90,000 students successfully created an SEVP Portal account



# SEVP Portal Users

- **F-1 students participating in post-completion OPT**
  - Includes students participating in STEM extension
- **M-1 students participating in practical training**



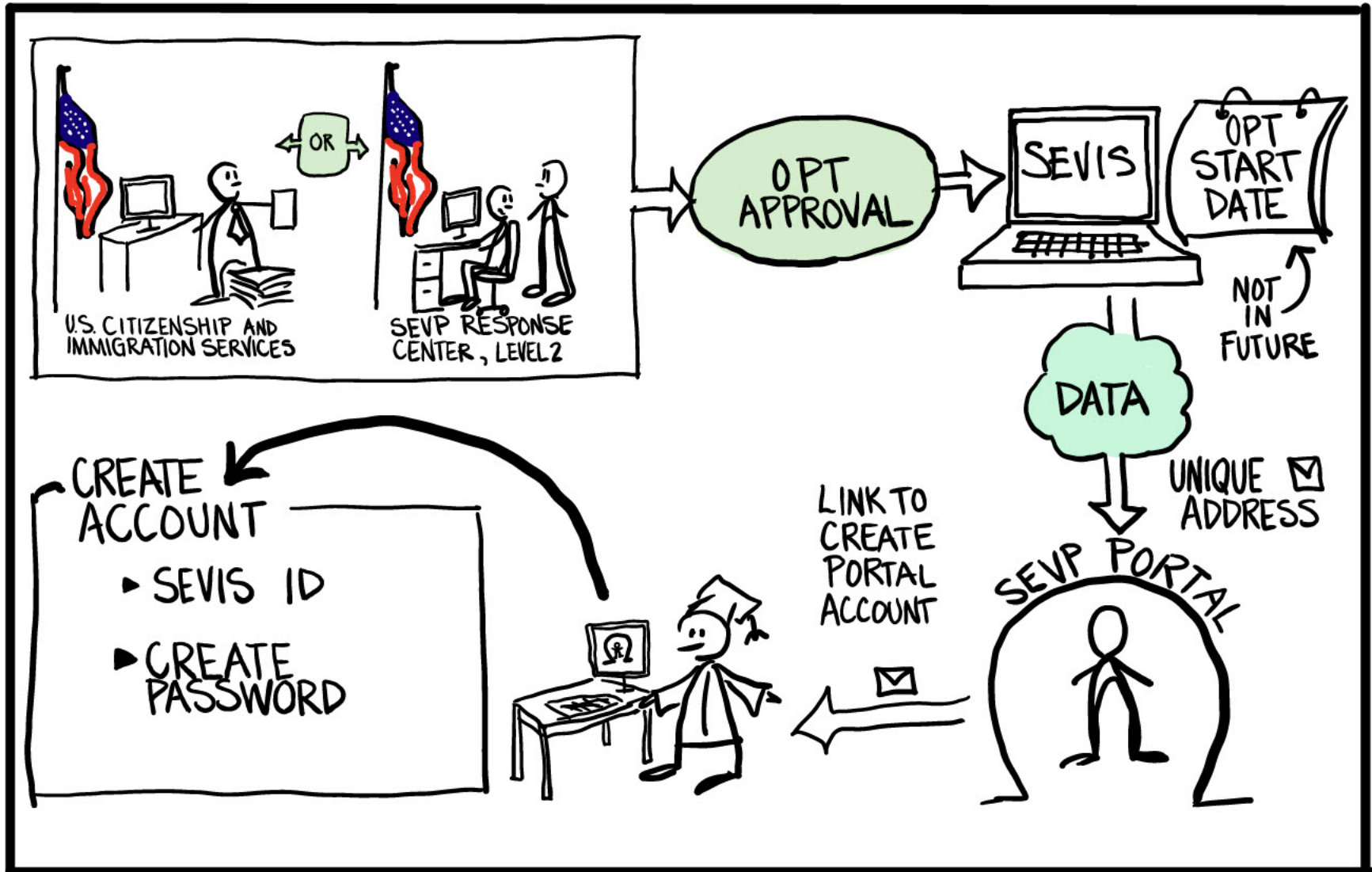
# SEVP Portal Functionality

## *Student Uses*

- **Post-completion practical training students can report:**
  - Address
    - Physical address
    - Home address
  - Telephone numbers
  - Employer information\*
- **Post-completion practical training students can monitor:**
  - Employment authorization

\* STEM OPT students are unable to add a new employer or change their employer start date due to STEM OPT regulatory requirements

# Account Creation Overview



# Account Creation

## *Tips and Reminders for DSOs*

- **Account creation email: [Do-Not-Reply.SEVP@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:Do-Not-Reply.SEVP@ice.dhs.gov)**
  - Encourage students to add email address to their safe sender list
- **Account creation link can only be used once**
- **Students must enter their current SEVIS ID number**
  - SEVIS ID located on left hand corner of the Form I-20
  - SEVP Portal will lock the student's account after three failed attempts to enter their SEVIS ID number

Need help with creating an SEVP Portal account?

View step-by-step instruction videos in the SEVP Portal help section at

[StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/SEVP-Portal-Help](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/SEVP-Portal-Help)

# Ask the Audience



## SEVP Portal Accounts

**DSOs: Have you informed your students currently engaged in practical training to register for an SEVP Portal account?  
Select a response**

# Troubleshooting the SEVP Portal



# Ask the Audience



## SEVP Portal Hot Topics

What are the hot topics and common issues that your students are experiencing with the SEVP Portal?  
Select all that apply

# SEVP Portal Functions in SEVIS

## DSO TOOLS IN SEVIS



LIST

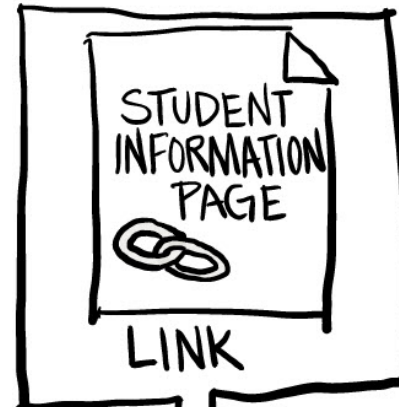
PORTAL  
ACCOUNT  
STATUS



REPORT

DATA CHANGED  
BY STUDENT IN  
PORTAL

.CSV, EXCEL



LINK

RESET  
PORTAL  
ACCOUNT



HISTORY

DATA  
TRANSMISSION  
ERROR MESSAGES

BEFORE & AFTER  
VALUES FOR  
CHANGED DATA



# SEVP Portal Links

## *Login Page and Resources*



Direct link

[SEVP.ice.dhs.gov/OPT](https://sevp.ice.dhs.gov/OPT)

[ICE.gov/SEVP](https://ice.gov/SEVP)

Students page

[ICE.gov/SEVIS/Students](https://ice.gov/SEVIS/Students)

Study in the States

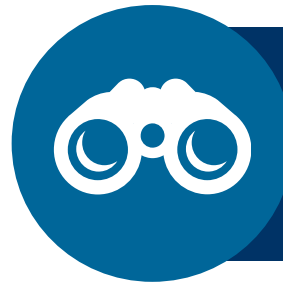
SEVP Portal Help section

[StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/SEVP-Portal-Help](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/SEVP-Portal-Help)

# Watch It Again

## *SEVP Special Report Webinar: SEVP Portal*

- Aired on March 20, 2018
- Provided introduction to the SEVP Portal
  - Create an SEVP Portal account
  - Navigate the SEVP Portal
  - Resources on Study in the States
- Recording and webinar resources available on the Stakeholder Webinars page
  - [StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Webinars](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Webinars)



### DSOs:

Let your students know about the webinar recording

# Ask the Audience



**SEVP Portal  
Resources**

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**What SEVP Portal resources have you shared with your students and colleagues? Select all that apply**

# NOTIFICATIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

# News for School Officials

## *Uploading Evidence in SEVIS*

- **DSOs must submit evidence in SEVIS for:**
  - Initial SEVP certification
  - Recertification
  - Form I-17 updates
- **Documents cannot be encrypted or password protected**
  - Single document size cannot exceed 10 MB
  - File name cannot exceed 60 characters
- **Once uploaded to SEVIS, evidence cannot be deleted**



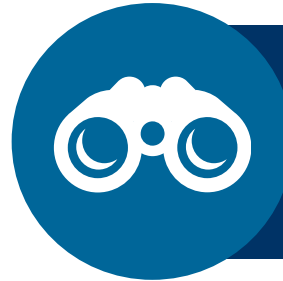
### REMEMBER:

Label and store copies of uploaded evidence in a safe location

# Enhanced Resource

## *Evidence Guides*

- **Definition of evidence guide**
  - Overview of common evidence required for SEVP adjudications
- **Evidence checklists organized according to action the school plans to take and school type**
  - Action:
    - Initial SEVP certification
    - Form I-17 updates
    - Recertification
  - School type:
    - Accreditation status
    - K-12, flight school, postsecondary



**REMEMBER:**  
Evidence guides located at  
[ICE.gov/SEVIS/Schools](https://ice.dhs.gov/SEVIS/Schools)

# Recertification vs. Petition Updates

## *Know the Difference*

- **Form I-17 updates are not the same as recertification**
- **Schools can submit updates when filing for recertification**
  - Apply for recertification from the School Information page in SEVIS
  - Edit the Form I-17 to reflect any changes and provide evidence
  - Upload a complete recertification package in SEVIS
- **Edits not allowed when filing for recertification\***
  - Change in ownership
  - Change in main location
  - Adding an instructional site

\* SEVP will cancel recertification filings with these edits

# Improving Processes

## *Enhanced Form I-515A Processing System*

- **No effect on Form I-515A processing**
  - Students must comply with Form I-515A requirements
    - Failure to comply will result in SEVIS record termination
- **Changes:**
  - Automated notification process
    - DSOs will receive two emails in succession
    - Second email will contain a password to open the first
    - Protects student personal information
  - Cases automatically closed for students who depart within 30 days
    - Students and DSOs should email [SEVIS.I-515@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:SEVIS.I-515@ice.dhs.gov) with information about pending departures



# Around SEVP



SETA update



SEVP field representative vacancies

**DON'T FORGET...**

# Ask the Audience



Ending the  
School Year

Do you provide tips and reminders to your international students prior to summer break or the summer term?  
Select an answer

# Ending the School Year

## *Ensure Students Maintain Status*

- **Students must maintain status during summer break**
- **Ensure students understand:**
  - Grace period and options available upon graduation
    - Practical training application timelines
  - If they are eligible for an annual vacation
  - International travel requirements
    - Sign Form I-20 prior to international travel
- **Discuss OPT requirements prior to graduation**
  - Students may apply up to 90 days before their program end date

# Ending the School Year

## *Graduation Reminders for F-1 Students*

- **F-1 students have a 60-day grace period to:**
  - Apply and be accepted to a new academic program
    - Must start program within five months
    - DSO must transfer out SEVIS record within the grace period
  - Apply to USCIS for a change of status
  - Travel within the United States
    - Must depart the country by the end of 60 days
- **Students cannot depart and return to the United States during the grace period**
- **SEVIS automatically completes student's record at the end of the grace period**



# Ending the School Year

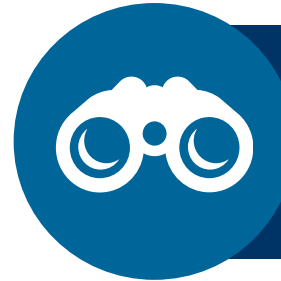
## *Graduation Reminders for M-1 Students*

- **M-1 students have a 30-day grace period to:**
  - Apply to USCIS for a change of status
  - Travel within the United States
    - Must depart the country by the end of 30 days
- **SEVIS automatically completes student's record at the end of the grace period**
- **M-1 students may apply for an extension of stay**
  - Allows additional time to complete program or practical training
  - Must apply during specific period:
    - Up to 60 days before the program end date
    - No later than 15 days before the program end date

# Ending the School Year

## *Annual Vacation*

- **F-1 students must complete one full academic year to be eligible for annual vacation**
  - M-1 students are *not* eligible for an annual vacation
  - Students must intend to register for classes the next academic term
  - Students may take as many, few or no classes during a vacation
- **Schools should have clear and consistent vacation policies**
  - School policy should comply with SEVP Policy Guidance for Adjudicators 1408-01: Academic Year
    - Located at [ICE.gov/SEVIS/Schools](https://ice.dhs.gov/SEVIS/Schools)



### REMEMBER:

Students not eligible for an annual vacation must enroll in a full course of study

# Ending the School Year

## *Student Travel*

- **Sign student's Form I-20 prior to international travel**
  - Signature valid for one year
- **Provide emergency contact information**
  - Include 24-hour emergency contact information
- **Encourage students to:**
  - Talk with DSO prior to international travel
  - Review CBP rules prior to departure
    - Be familiar with primary and secondary inspection
  - Hand-carry all required documentation





# FACTS + FIGURES

# Intragovernmental Collaboration

## *Government Partners*



SEVP works closely with government partners, including:

### DHS

- CBP
- USCIS
- FEMA
- ICE
- HSI
- NSID

### U.S. Department of Justice

- FBI

### U.S. Department of State

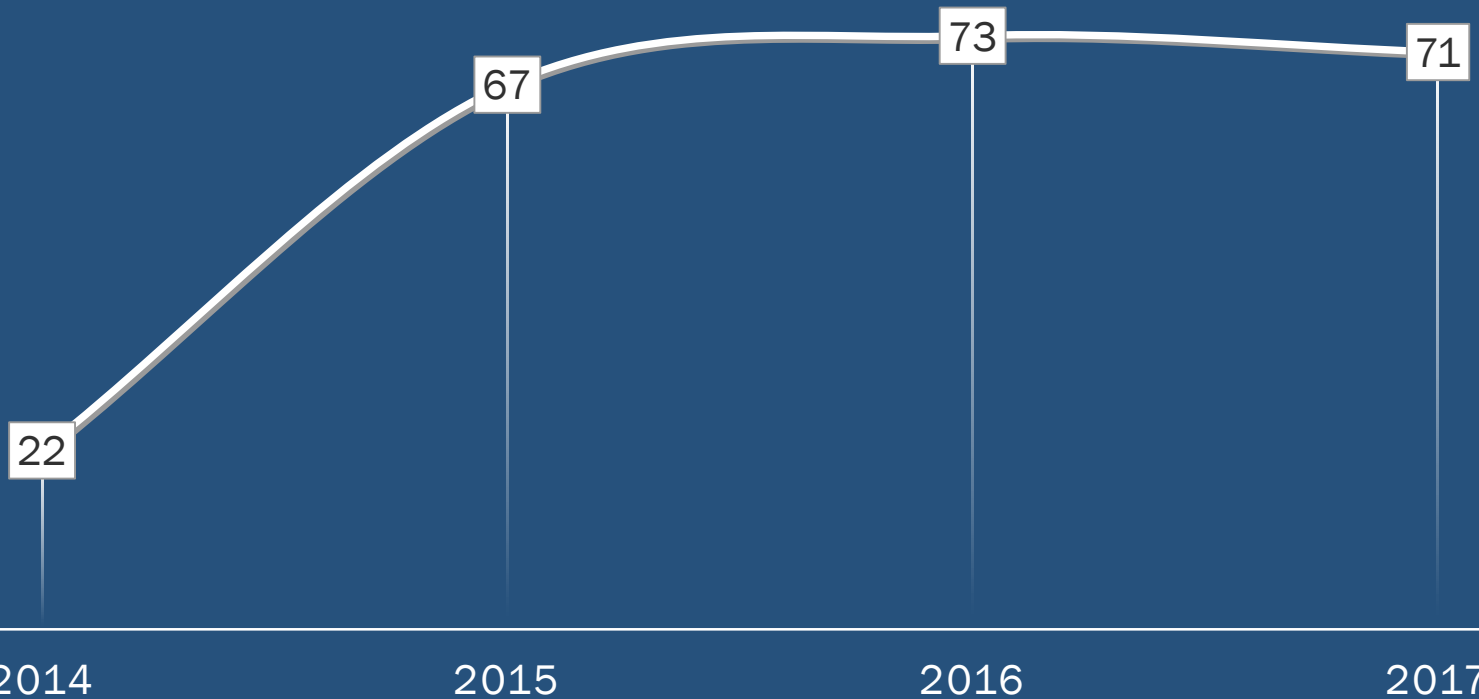
- Bureau of Consular Affairs
- Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
- EducationUSA

### U.S. Department of Education

Congressional members and staff

# Intragovernmental Collaboration

## GOVERNMENT PARTNER EVENTS 2014-2017



# HSI Outreach Program

## *Project Campus Sentinel*

- **Overview**
  - PCS partners with educational institutions to prevent SEVIS exploitation and improving communications between DSOs and local HSI special agents
- **PCS and DSOs can assist each other by sharing information**
  - May improve the school's management of programs and help prevent students from falling out of status
  - Results in improved strategies for identifying and prosecuting unlawful activity
- **HSI's investigation of non-compliant schools helps uphold the integrity of legitimate schools and programs**



**REMEMBER:**  
SEVP field representatives  
are not the same as PCS

# HSI Outreach Program

## *Project Shield America*

- **Overview**
  - PSA establishes partnerships between HSI and academia to ensure compliance with U.S. export control laws and protect controlled technology
- **PSA can assist DSOs by:**
  - Providing training on red flag indicators of potential export control violations
  - Opening lines of communication between international student offices and campus export control offices

# HELPFUL RESOURCES

# Save the Date

## *Government Voices Webinar: What to Expect at the U.S. Port of Entry*

- May 16, 2018, 2 – 3:30 p.m. EDT
- Learn about information to assist students at U.S. ports of entry
  - Traveling on a student visa
  - Primary and secondary inspection
  - The Form I-515A
- Presenters include representatives from SEVP and CBP
- Webinar recording and resources available after the event



### LEARN MORE

Visit the Government Voices Webinar: What to Expect at the U.S. Port of Entry page

[StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Webinars](http://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Webinars)

# SEVP Portal Help

Official website of the Department of Homeland Security

Homeland Security  
**STUDY in the STATES**

View Disclaimer | Select Language | SEARCH

STUDENTS | SCHOOLS | BLOG | TOOLS | **STEM OPT HUB**

## SEVP PORTAL HELP

Students on post-completion practical training should use the SEVP Portal Help section to learn how to use the SEVP Portal and comply with reporting requirements.

Watch the SEVP Portal Help videos for step-by-step guides to navigating and updating the SEVP Portal.

### STUDENTS: LEARN HOW TO USE THE SEVP PORTAL

In this section you will find:

- Step-by-step instructions.
- Instructional videos.
- Additional SEVP Portal Help resources.

#### SEVP PORTAL: GETTING STARTED

- SEVP Portal Overview
- Create an SEVP Portal Account
- Make and Maintain User Password
- SEVP Portal User Guide

#### MAINTAIN INFORMATION

- Navigate the SEVP Portal
- Update User Profile
- Update Employer Information

#### INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS

- Benefits of the SEVP Portal
- SEVIS Help Hub
- Broadcast Messages

#### RESOURCES

- OPT Student Reporting Requirements
- SEVP Portal Videos
- Infographic

**QUESTIONS?**

For general and case-specific questions, call 703-603-3400 or email [SEVP@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:SEVP@ice.dhs.gov) and include SEVP Portal in the subject line. Our offices are open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET, except holidays.

Create an SEVP Portal account and download the SEVP Portal User Guide

Resources for DSOs about SEVP Portal interface with SEVIS

Navigate and update information through the SEVP Portal

SEVP Portal videos and infographic for students

[StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/SEVP-Portal-Help](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/SEVP-Portal-Help)



# Guide to Studying in the States

Official website of the Department of Homeland Security

Homeland Security

**STUDY in the STATES**

View Disclaimer

Select Language SEARCH

STUDENTS SCHOOLS BLOG TOOLS STEM OPT HUB

## Guide to Studying in the States

International students who come to the United States must follow a specific set of rules. However, different rules apply depending on your student type and education level.

Use this tool to create a guide for understanding these rules. Then, work with your designated school official (DSO) to make sure you follow them.

### Choose Your Student Type

To begin, please select the type of student you are or want to become. Navigate between each student type with your mouse or arrow keys. Accepted students can refer to their Form I-20, "Certificate of Eligibility for [Nonimmigrant Student Status](#)," and student visa for confirmation of their student type.

If you are unsure which student classification is right for you, please visit the [U.S. Department of State's website](#).



**F-1**

International students enrolling in an academic program at a university, college, high school, private elementary school, seminary, conservatory or another academic institution, including an English language program.



**M-1**

International students enrolling in a technical program at a vocational or other recognized nonacademic institution, other than a language training program.

[StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Guide-to-Studying-in-the-States](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Guide-to-Studying-in-the-States)

# Engage with SEVP

## *Stay Connected*



### KEY NEWS AND CONTENT

[StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Blog](https://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](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Conferences)



@StudyinStates



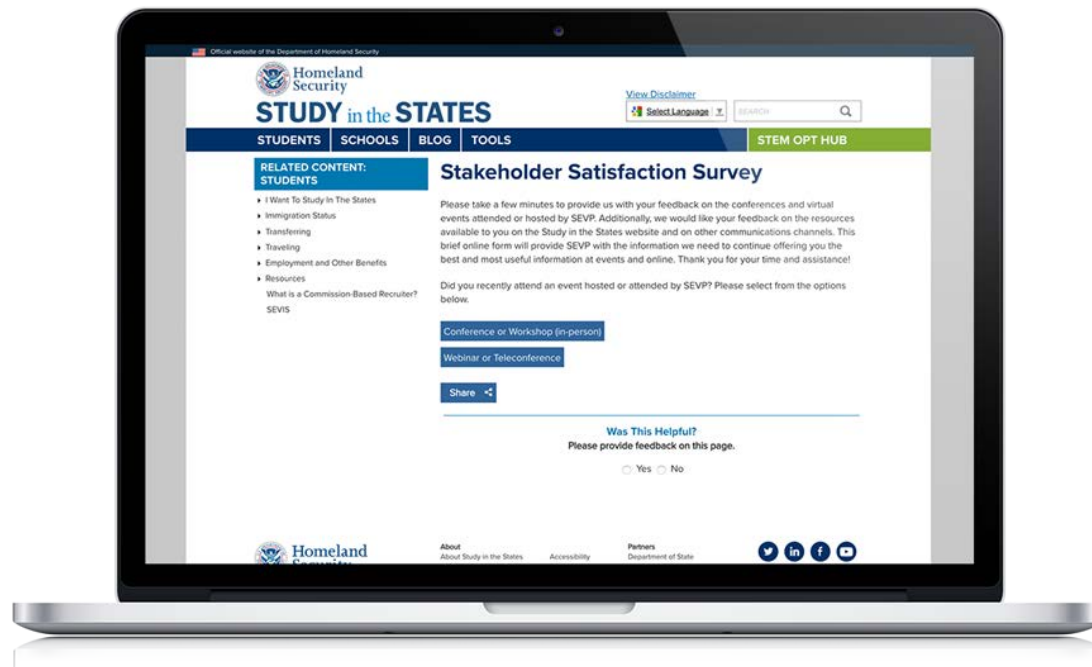
Facebook.com/StudyintheStates



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](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Survey)

# SEVP Contact Information



## PHONE

703-603-3400  
800-892-4829



## EMAIL

Case-specific questions  
[SEVP@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:SEVP@ice.dhs.gov)  
Technical issues  
[SEVISHelpDesk@ice.dhs.gov](mailto: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](https://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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