SEVIS 6.22 Pre-Release Webinar FAQs

Date FAQs Released: **Initial release of FAQs**

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General Questions and Outstanding Issues

Q: Will Release 6.22 fix the issue of a student's country of birth and/or citizenship changing to Canada?

A: No. Release 6.22 will not address this issue. However, we have plans to correct it in a later update. If this has happened to any of your student records, contact sevistechnicalfeedback@ice.dhs.gov, and we will ensure the record(s) are corrected.

Q: What happened to the Search by education level? Will it return?

A: Not at this time. It is in the backlog for consideration.

Q: The school Address Line 2 does not appear on the Form I-20. Is there a fix planned?

A: We plan to address this issue. However, it is not currently slated for release.

Q: Why is SEVIS using AddressDoctor instead of some other option?

A: The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) chose AddressDoctor. Our choices are limited to tools that have been tested and approved by DHS.

Q: Is there a planned fix for the missing link to add officials to the I-17 issue?

A: We will correct this issue, but not in the SEVIS 6.22 Release. Send a request to sevistechnicalfeedback@ice.dhs.gov, if you do not see the link and you need to add officials.

Q: When will we receive more information about SEVIS Release 6.24 (November 2015)?

A: The September 8, 2015 SEVIS Roadmap Webinar is available online at Study in the States, and a webinar to discuss the changes to Optional Practical Training (OPT), which is scheduled for October 2, 2015.

Q: We have had cases of students showing up on the alert list for Students with POE Information. If we have confirmed that the student is outside the United States,

what should we do to prevent these student records from auto-terminating for failure to register?

A: In these cases, contact the SEVIS Help Desk and request a data fix. You will need to provide evidence of the student's absence from the United States.

Department of State

Q: Is it necessary to print a SEVIS-generated Form DS-7002, if we already have a paper version of the form with all the required signatures?

A: No. There is no requirement to print a SEVIS Form DS-7002 if you already have a fully executed paper form with all required signatures.

Q: Will the Department of State add the "required" asterisk to the email and phone number fields, since they are required for validation?

A: We understand it could be confusing that the fields are not denoted as required. However, there are sponsors (for Government-sponsored programs) that are exempt from this requirement; therefore, we are unable to add the asterisk.

Q: When will the functionality be available in the J-1 Secondary Schools category to shorten a student's program to less than five months?

A: This will be addressed in November 2015.

Q: When will the functionality be available to shorten the Exchange Visitor (EV) Au Pair programs?

A: This will be addressed in November 2015.

Q: Many J-1 exchange visitors in certain categories may not have a U.S. address that is easily validated. Is there guidance available in these cases?

A: We know that certain categories (J-1 Camp Counselor or Summer Work Travel) have had problems with address validation due to their rural locations. Please continue to email sevistechnicalfeedback@ice.dhs.gov and/or jsevis@state.gov for assistance in providing a valid address. We are examining these situations on a case-by-case basis.

Batch Questions

Q: Will the fix for editing employment when an OPT Actual End Date is later than the OPT Recommended Date affect the batch schema?

A: This update is not a change to the schema; the fix is correcting the rules. It should work in RTI and Batch.

Q: Will we have to take additional steps for the OPT approved dates to be reflected in our batch system?

A: SEVIS does not provide batch systems with the OPT approval information, as we receive that information via interface with USCIS. That information is only available via RTI.

Q: It would be helpful to have the option to enter the compensation/stipend amount "per program" on the Form DS-7002. Is it possible to add that option?

A: The compensation/stipend is per site and that is how the Form DS-7002 is set up. To make this change would require a Form change, so that is not possible at this time.

Phone Numbers and Email Addresses

Q: What do we do if the student or EV does not have a U.S. telephone number?

A: For F/M students, there are three options for providing telephone numbers:

- Provide the student's U.S. telephone number
- Provide the student's non-U.S. telephone number
- Check the option that says the student does not have a telephone number

However, exchange visitor validation requires a U.S. telephone number. Program Sponsors may use the telephone number at the Primary Site of Activity when the EV does not have a personal U.S. telephone number.

Form I-20 Questions

Q: Why did you remove the barcode for scanning from the Form I-20?

A: The barcode was not used or scanned anywhere, including at Port of Entries (POEs). We removed the barcode, because it served no purpose. We used the space to increase the clarity and look of the form.

Q: Our Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has not been accepting the new Form I-20, and has been requesting proof. What should we do?

A: SEVP has a team that reaches out to DMVs with information when issues arise. Send an email to dmvssa.sevp@ice.dhs.gov and that team will provide assistance.

Q: Why does the Form I-20 require an unknown password to save it?

A: If you are attempting to save any changes to a form that SEVIS generates, Adobe will prompt you for a password due to the document security settings. Certain actions, including: changing the document, commenting, filling in fields, and electronic signatures are restricted for security reasons. Please refer to the Form-I-20 Fact Sheet for examples of the form.

Q: Why did the date convention of MM/DD/YYYY change on the Form I-20?

A: We decided to write out the month, because not all countries use the MM/DD/YYYY format. It also is consistent with how the information is entered on the Form I-20 in SEVIS.