U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

Draft Bridge Programs Fact Sheet

This fact sheet is a companion to Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) Policy Guidance for Adjudicators 1210-03: Pathway Programs. This fact sheet is for bridge programs only. A bridge program is a postsecondary, nondegree program of study that combines nonremedial and remedial coursework which upon completion enables a student to fully meet prerequisites for full admission to a subsequent degree program of study. A designated school official (DSO) adding a bridged degree program should review SEVP's bridged degree programs fact sheet.

Form I-17, "Petition for Approval of School for Attendance by Nonimmigrant Student," Instructions

In the following fields in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), a DSO must make these entries depending on the type of bridge program.

Bridge Program with No English Language Training (ESL) Component

SEVIS Field #	Text in Field	Entry Information
Item 6	This school is engaged in	• Check Other, and enter "Bridge Program"
Item 12	Areas of study	• Check Other, and enter "Bridge Program"
Item 16	Requirements for admission	• List individual requirements for admission
Item 17	Courses of study and time necessary to complete each	• List each individual bridge program by proficiency reason: "Bridge Program (insert proficiency reason here)" • List the time necessary to complete each individual program • List the main instructional site's SEVIS school code of any SEVP-certified school where the student is concurrently enrolled as part of the bridge program, if applicable

Bridge Program with an ESL Component where ESL Instruction Is Executed by the School

SEVIS Field #	Text in Field	Entry Information
Item 6	This school is engaged in	• Check Language Training and Other • Next to Other, enter "Bridge Program"
Item 10	Accreditations and Recognitions	• If different from the school's accrediting agency, list the agency accrediting the ESL portion of the program under Department of Education Recognized Accrediting Agencies
Item 12	Areas of study	• Check Language and Other • Next to Other, enter "Bridge Program-ESL"
Item 14	Select as appropriate	• Check that the school is engaged in English language training
Item 16	Requirements for admission	• List individual requirements for admission, including any ESL proficiency requirements different from a typical degree program of study
Item 17	Courses of study and time necessary to complete each	• List each individual bridge program by proficiency reason: "Bridge Program-ESL (insert proficiency reason here)" • List the time necessary to complete each individual program • List the main instructional site's SEVIS school code of any SEVP-certified school where the student is concurrently enrolled as part of the bridge program, if applicable

Bridge Program with an ESL Component where ESL Instruction Is Executed via Concurrent Enrollment

SEVIS Field #	Text in Field	Entry Information
Item 6	This school is engaged in	• Check Other, and enter "Bridge Program"
Item 10	Accreditations and Recognitions	• In the Optional Accreditation Comments field, enter as follows: *"Bridge Program-ESL (insert proficiency reason)" (must exactly match one of the bridge programs on field 17 on the school's SEVIS record), name of SEVP-certified school at which the student is concurrently enrolled for ESL instruction, the concurrent enrollment school's main instructional site SEVIS school code and the name of the concurrent enrollment school's ESL Department of Education Recognized Accrediting Agency (do not list this accrediting agency elsewhere)*
Item 12	Areas of study	• Check Other, and enter "Bridge Program-ESL"

Item 16	Requirements for admission	• List individual requirements for admission, including any ESL proficiency requirements different from a typical degree program of study
Item 17	Courses of study and time necessary to complete each	• List each individual bridge program by proficiency reason: "Bridge Program-ESL (insert proficiency reason here)" • List the time necessary to complete each individual program • List the main instructional site's SEVIS school code of any SEVP-certified school where the student is concurrently enrolled as part of the bridge program, if applicable (note: do not repeat any SEVIS school code already listed above in item 10)

Bridge Program Evidence Requirements

All schools must provide a list of each individual bridge program by proficiency reason as listed on the Form I-17.[1] For each individual bridge program provide:

- Admission requirements.

- Time necessary to complete the program.

- Full course of study requirements, including any evidence relating to concurrent enrollment.

- Education level for which the program is preparing students.

- Proof of accreditation, if applicable. Provide a letter from accrediting body confirming accreditation covers by name the specific bridge program.

- Evidence in lieu of accreditation, if applicable.

- Proof of compliance with the Accreditation of English Language Training Programs Act,[2] if applicable. Evidence of accreditation must list the specific bridge programs(s) by name.

- Additional evidence relating to third parties, if applicable:

  o List of each third party for each individual bridge program.

  o The SEVIS school code of the third party's main instructional site, if an SEVP-certified school.

  o Copies of all arrangements or agreements between the school and third party relating to the administration and operation of the bridge program.

  o Statement showing detailed explanation of chain of command and delegation of responsibilities for all entities and personnel involved in the bridge program, including any third parties.

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[1] This list must exactly match what is provided in field 17 on the school's SEVIS record (field 19 on the Form I-17).

[2] *8 USC 1101(a)(15)(F) and (52).*

SEVP may request additional evidence regarding bridge programs.

Form I-20, "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status," Instructions

Form I-20 Issuance

Printed Form I-20 #	Text in Field	Entry Information
Item 4	Level of education the student is pursuing or will pursue in the United States	• Select Other, and enter "Bridge Program (proficiency reason)" or "Bridge Program-ESL (proficiency reason)," as applicable (must exactly match one of the bridge programs on field 17 on the school's SEVIS record)
Item 5	The student named above has been accepted for a full course of study at this school, majoring in…	• Enter the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code under "Primary Major Code" as follows: ○ For a Pathway Program with an ESL component, enter 32.XXXX ○ For any other Pathway Program, enter 32.XXXX[3] • The "Secondary Major Code" can be used to indicate the student's specific nonremedial field of study in which the student is currently enrolled on this Form I-20. This code cannot be a CIP code for an ESL program of study. • Enter the program start date for the date on which the student is expected to begin the bridge program. Enter the program end date for the date on which the student is expected to complete the bridge program.
Item 9	Remarks	• Enter the student's education level and name of the degree program(s) of study for which the bridge program is preparing the student, and if concurrently enrolled at another SEVP-certified school as part of the bridge program, include the SEVIS school code of the instructional site at which the student is studying, as follows: *This program is preparing student for (insert education level (i.e., bachelor's, master's or doctorate)) program in (insert name of degree program student intending to enter upon completion of program) and (insert name of second and/or third degree program(s) student intends to enter upon completion of program, if applicable).* For a student whose program involves concurrent enrollment in another SEVP-certified school as part of the bridge program for that session, insert the following:

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[3] SEVP will select two codes from the 32 CIP code family to denote whether the program is 1) a pathway program with an ESL component or 2) any other pathway program.

		Student is attending (insert SEVIS school code) as part of this program. This information must be updated each session.

Form I-20 Maintenance

A DSO must issue the student's Form I-20 at the "Other" education level and for the specific bridge program (by proficiency reason) in which the student is enrolled for the duration of time the student is in the bridge program. This information must exactly match one of the bridge programs a school is approved for on the school's Form I-17. A DSO also must update the remarks field each session to reflect whether the student is concurrently enrolled in another SEVP-certified school as part of the bridge program. This includes removing such notation if the student is not concurrently enrolled at another SEVP-certified school for that session.

Upon completion of the bridge program, a DSO must:

- Change the student's education level from "Other" to the appropriate degree level

- Change the student's "Primary Major" and "Secondary Major" CIP codes to the student's new program(s) of study

- Change the student's program start and end dates to reflect the new program of study

- Remove any notations from the student's remarks field pertaining to the bridge program

DSOs with questions about how to change education level should refer to SEVP's User Manual for School Users of SEVIS: Form I-20.