



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

**SEVP**  
STUDENT AND EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM

## SEVP at a Glance

February 7, 2020 – Georgia Association of  
International Educators

# Presentation Overview

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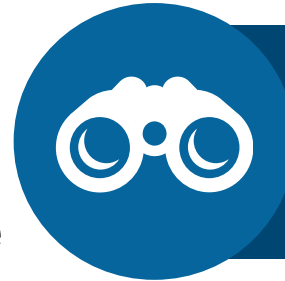
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HELPFUL RESOURCES

# SETA ROLLOUT

# SETA Overview

- **SEVP launched the SEVP External Training Application (SETA) in November 2019**
  - Online learning management tool for current and prospective DSOs
- **Covers the rules and regulations governing SEVP and the Department of State's Exchange Visitor Program**
  - Users may take each course at once or set their own pace towards completion
  - Users also have the option to test out of each course



## REVIEW:

November SEVP broadcast message on SETA launch for more information

For more information on SETA account registration, access:

[StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Assets/SETA\\_Account\\_Creation\\_User\\_Guide.pdf](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Assets/SETA_Account_Creation_User_Guide.pdf)

# SETA Courses and Training

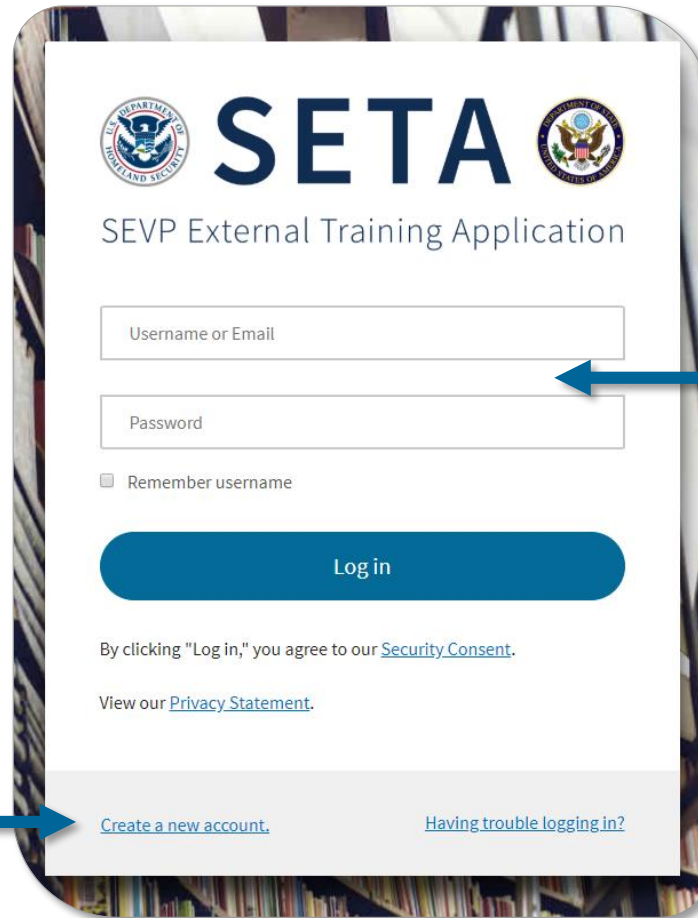
Course	Description
SEVP Basics	Provides an overview of SEVP, SEVIS and the management of nonimmigrant student records
SEVP 101	Discusses the history of SEVP and describes the different types of nonimmigrant students and exchange visitors
EVP 101	Introduces the U.S. Department of State's Exchange Visitor Program
Introduction to Initial SEVP Certification	Gives an overview of federal regulations that govern SEVP's school certification process and requirements

# Pre-submitted Question



Who are the SETA courses available to?

# SETA Page Navigation



Landing page for pre-registered SETA users

New users can create an account here

SETA can be accessed at the distinct log in page  
<https://sevp.ice.gov/seta/login/index.php>

# SETA Page Navigation

## Creating a New Account

SEVP External Training Application

### Create your new account

Required fields are noted by a **i**.

**Username *i***  
 You can create a username with:

- Lowercase letters
- Numbers
- The following symbols: Hyphen (-), underscore (\_), period (.), or at sign (@).

**-Missing username**

**Password *i***

- At least 12 characters
- At least 1 lower case letter
- At least 1 non-alphanumeric character such as \*, -, or #
- At least 1 number
- At least 1 upper case letter

Do you have an active SEVIS account? **i**

Yes  No

**First Name *i***

**Last Name *i***

**Email Address *i***

Type your email again **i**

**Mobile Phone Number**

I wish to receive SETA-related texts at this number.

New users must provide all required information in order to create a new SETA account

↑  
Click "Sign Me Up" to register



# SETA Next Steps

- **SEVP expects to continually evolve the application and add additional courses**
  - As more courses are added, SEVP and the Department of State plan to require that all school and sponsor officials complete all SETA courses
- **SEVP will communicate the announcement of SETA to the public through SEVP Broadcast Messages, Study in the States, social media channels and [ICE.gov/SEVIS](https://ice.dhs.gov/SEVIS).**
  - SEVP will create a new resource page on Study in the States to house all publicly available information on SETA

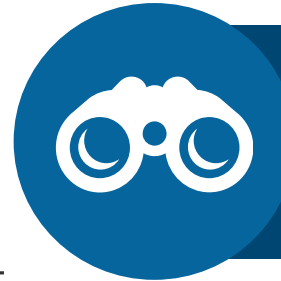
# SEVIS WAY FORWARD



# Looking Ahead

## *SEVIS: What DSOs Should Know*

- **Future plans**
  - Develop one-person/one-record model
    - SEVP will coordinate with CBP to leverage existing technologies
  - Training for DSOs
- **Enhancements planned for 2020:**
  - Accommodate the U.S. Department of Education's CIP revisions
  - Collect city of birth for F and M principles and dependents
  - Collect addresses and telephone for F, M and J dependents



### REMEMBER:

SEVP sends notifications in advance of any SEVIS release

# Be in the Know

## *Merge Your SEVIS Accounts Today*

- **Continue to submit SEVIS account merging requests**
  - As of September, over 1,800 SEVIS accounts have been merged
- **How to merge accounts:**
  - Ensure first and last names are the same across all SEVIS accounts
  - Email request to [SEVP@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:SEVP@ice.dhs.gov)
    - Include subject line “Merge Accounts”
    - Include table with:
      - Current active SEVIS username information and organizations
      - Whether each organization is a batch school or program
      - Desired username for merged account



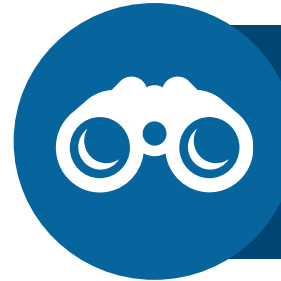
### REMEMBER:

Requests processed in the order in which they are received

# Be in the Know

## *SEVIS Release 6.49*

- SEVIS Release 6.49 went live on Nov. 17, 2019
- Release includes:
  - Persons being added to Form I-17 may already be a SEVIS user
  - Form I-983 uploads
  - New alert list: Students Requiring STEM OPT Form I-983 Upload



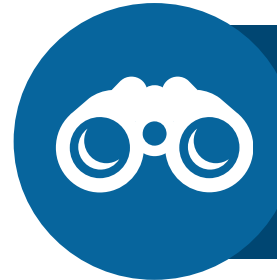
**WATCH:**  
Release Webinar: SEVIS  
Release 6.49 on  
Study in the States

Access the release planning guide in the SEVIS Help Hub  
[StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/SEVIS-Help-Hub/Learn-More/SEVIS-Enhancements/SEVIS-Release-649-Planning-Guide](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/SEVIS-Help-Hub/Learn-More/SEVIS-Enhancements/SEVIS-Release-649-Planning-Guide)

# Be in the Know

## *SEVP Portal Release 1.9*

- SEVP Portal Release 1.9 launched in September 2019
- Introduces functionality changes:
  - Employer deletion confirmation
    - Students must confirm they never worked for employer prior to deletion
  - Modified STEM Student Due Date Announcement box
    - Reflects status of student's periodic and self-evaluation reports



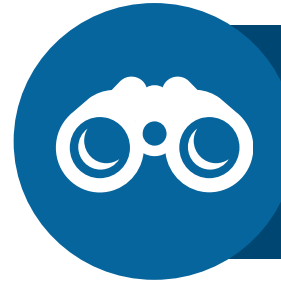
### LEARN MORE:

View the SEVP Ask the Experts Webinar: SEVP Portal Follow-up

# Be in the Know

## *SEVP Portal Release 1.10*

- SEVP Portal Release 1.10 occurred in October 2019
- Students will only be able to access their portal account six months after their OPT end date
- **Automated email notifications:**
  - Six months before closure date
  - 30 days before closure date
  - Day of account closure



### REMEMBER:

Students should print or save a copy of their portal record and event history

# Be in the Know

## *When Students Receive Portal Emails*

- **To take the following action:**
  - Create a portal account
  - Reset or change password
- **In the situations where their:**
  - Account is locked
  - Email address changes
  - STEM OPT reporting requirements are due

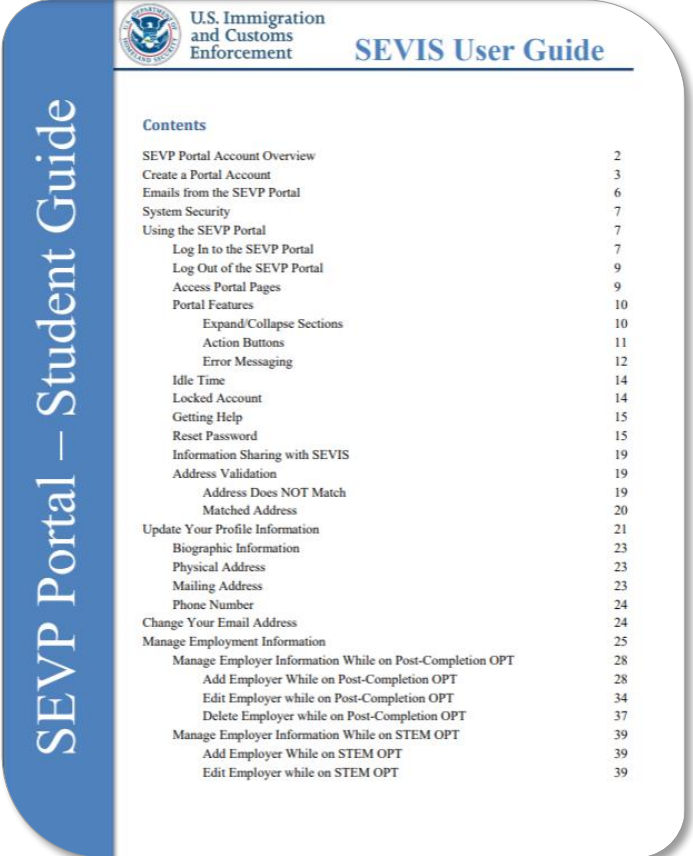
View sample portal emails to students on the SEVP Portal Help section  
[StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/SEVP-Portal-Help](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/SEVP-Portal-Help)



# Be in the Know

## *SEVP Portal User Guide*

- Resource to help students navigate:
  - Using the SEVP Portal
  - Updating profile information
  - Managing employment information
- Contains portal screenshots to assist students with portal navigation and processes
- Download in the SEVP Portal Help section



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement		SEVIS User Guide
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# Pre-submitted Question



## SEVP Portal

How is SEVP addressing data integrity issues (such as phone numbers being removed from student records after submitting an update through the SEVP Portal)?

# Pre-submitted Question



## SEVP Portal

Does SEVP have any plans to start auto-terminating records based on students not reporting employment through the portal?

# NOTIFICATIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

# Reminder for DSOs

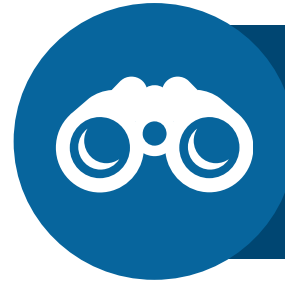
## *Get Ready for SEVIS Annual Verification*

- **Beginning in December 2019, PDSOs must annually verify that DSOs who have access to SEVIS:**
  - Are still employed by the organization
  - Continue to be the selected PDSO or DSO
  - Required continued access to SEVIS
- **Annual verification began on Dec. 3, 2019**
  - Schools must complete prior to March 3, 2020

Detailed instructions available on the SEVIS Help Hub  
[StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/SEVIS-Help-Hub/School-Records/PDSODSO-Annual-Verification](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/SEVIS-Help-Hub/School-Records/PDSODSO-Annual-Verification)

# CPT Reminders

- **Before authorizing CPT, DSOs should remember that:**
  - CPT must relate directly to the student's major area of study
  - Be an integral part of the school's established curriculum
  - Full-time or part-time
- **DSOs must authorize CPT in SEVIS**
  - Authorization cannot be backdated
  - Training must be secured before CPT authorization
  - CPT can only begin after student receives Form I-20 with the DSO endorsement
  - Student can have more than one CPT authorization
    - Separate authorization is needed
  - CPT requires a signed cooperative agreement



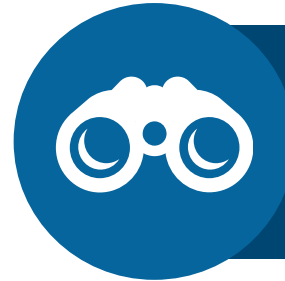
## VISIT

The CPT Fact Sheet on  
Study in the States for more  
information

# New SEVP Policy Guidance

## *Major Area of Study Requirements*

- Responds to 2014 GAO audit recommendation
- Provides clarifying language on major area of study requirements for OPT students
  - Students are responsible for providing a description of **how** job duties relate to their major
  - DSOs can document relationship in either SEVIS or student's file
- Highlights resources to assist with determining a relationship between job and major



### REVIEW:

Sample explanations of a direct relationship in policy guidance

To read the full policy guidance visit  
[ICE.gov/SEVIS/Schools](https://ice.dhs.gov/SEVIS/Schools)

# Pre-submitted Question



## STEM CIP Code

If a school reclassifies a major so that it becomes STEM eligible after a student has graduated with the major but while he/she is on regular OPT, is the student eligible for STEM OPT based upon the reclassified major?



# New SEVP Policy Guidance

## *Form I-20 and Recruiters*

- **Specifies that DSOs must issue and send Forms I-20 directly to prospective students and their dependents**
  - For minors, DSOs must send Forms I-20 directly to the student's parent or legal guardian
  - Recruiters have no role in issuing or handling Forms I-20
- **Reasons for guidance**
  - Privacy
  - Fraud prevention
  - Consistent with laws and regulations

Read the SEVP policy guidance Form I-20 Issuance and School Use of Recruiters at [ICE.gov/SEVIS/Schools](https://ice.dhs.gov/SEVIS/Schools)

# Pre-submitted Question



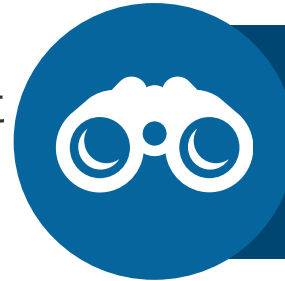
## Form I-20 Issuance

SEVP recently issued policy guidance limiting Form I-20 distribution to the student only. However, regulation 22 CFR 62.12(c) in relation to DS-2019s makes an important allowance for releasing the document with permission to a third party. Does SEVP anticipate revising their original guidance to allow for this same practice?

# K-12 Outreach

## *Collaboration Between Post-Secondary and K-12 Schools*

- **Ensure K-12 DSOs understand SEVP regulations, processes and reporting requirements**
  - Unique regulations for K-12 schools
  - Register students twice per year
  - Regularly report updates to student and school information in SEVIS
- **Share best practices and resources with K-12 DSOs**
  - Collaborate on the transfer process to a U.S. college or university
  - Share free government resources on Study in the States and [ICE.gov/SEVP](https://ice.dhs.gov/SEVP)



### **REMEMBER:**

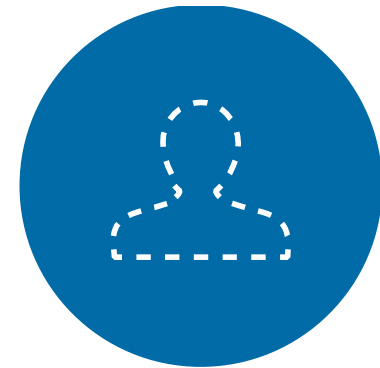
Study in the States has dedicated resource pages for K-12 schools

[StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Kindergarten-to-Grade-12-Schools](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Kindergarten-to-Grade-12-Schools)

# Field Representative Unit Updates

## *Current Field Representative Vacancies*

- 58 field representatives deployed
- Vacancies remain in:
  - Milwaukee, Wisconsin
  - Norfolk, Virginia

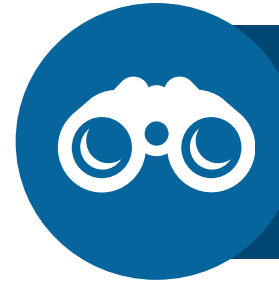


**DON'T FORGET...**

# Student Travel

## *Form I-515A*

- Grants students temporary admission into the United States
- Paperwork includes:
  - Original Form I-515A
  - Form I-20
  - Form I-94
  - Copy of admission stamp in the student's passport
  - I-901 SEVIS Fee receipt
- DSOs should assist students in complying with Form I-515A requirements
  - Students must respond within 30 days

**REMEMBER:**

Failure to respond to a Form I-515A may negatively impact a student's status

# Student Travel

## *Best Practices for DSOs*

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



# Study in the States Resource

## *New Travel Resource Page*

Official website of the Department of Homeland Security

Homeland Security  
**STUDY in the STATES**

[View Disclaimer](#) | [Select Language](#) |

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

**RELATED CONTENT**

- ▶ Getting Started
- ▶ Traveling to the United States
- ▶ Studying in the United States
- ▶ Student Benefits
- ▶ STEM OPT
- ▶ Status Changes
- ▶ K-12 Resources
- ▶ Outreach
- ▶ Tools

### Traveling as an International Student

As a student studying in the United States, you may be able to travel during your time of study. If you travel internationally, for annual vacation or during a school break, make sure you take the appropriate steps before you travel to ensure a smooth reentry into the United States.

- Meet with Your Designated School Official (DSO)**

Before you travel abroad, it is important to check in with your DSO. When you meet with your DSO, you should ensure that your record in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is up-to-date and in Active status.
- What to Bring to U.S. Ports of Entry**

When you enter the United States, you will arrive at a port of entry and meet with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers for primary and sometimes a secondary inspection. The CBP officer may ask questions about your reason for travel and to inspect important documents like your
- Form I-515A**

If you arrive at a U.S. port of entry and do not have all your signed required documents, have not paid the I-901 SEVIS Fee on your current Form I-20 or have a SEVIS status issue, a CBP officer may issue you a Form I-515A, "Notice to Student or Exchange Visitor." The Form I-515A admits you to the United States for 30 days while you obtain and submit the proper documentation to SEVP.

**Additional Resources**

- [Obtaining a Social Security Number](#)
- [Form I-515A Overview](#)
- [Full Course of Study](#)
- [SEVP Portal Password Tips Sheet](#)
- [Form I-515A Overview](#)
- [Travel](#)

[Share](#)

[StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Traveling-as-an-International-Student](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Traveling-as-an-International-Student)



# FACTS + FIGURES

# Open Doors Report

- **Released in November 2019**
  - Produced by the Institute of International Education
  - Details information and data about post-secondary student flows into and out of the United States from the previous year
- **Highlights from the report:**
  - International student enrollment fell by .9 percent in 2018-19
    - This was a significant recovery from last year's 7 percent decline
  - OPT participants increased by 9.6 percent from last year
  - The United States remains the top host of international students globally

View the entire report at  
[IIE.org/en/Research-and-Insights/Open-Doors](https://iie.org/en/Research-and-Insights/Open-Doors)

# Open Doors Report

## *Fast Facts*

Active student Statistics	
Total	1,095,299
New Student Enrollment	269,383

Source: Institute of International Education's 2019 Open Doors Report

International students contributed

# \$44.7B

to the U.S. economy in 2018-19

5.5 percent increase from the previous year

# Open Doors Report

## *Significant Trends*

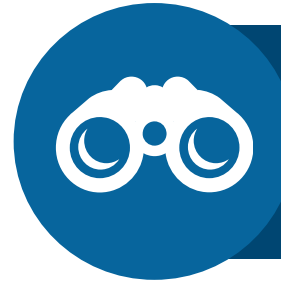
Trend	Details
Countries of Origin	52 percent of the total number of international students in the United States are from China and India
	Bangladesh, Brazil, Nigeria and Pakistan show strongest growth for countries of origin over the past years
International Students by State	One out of three international students studied in California, New York or Texas
Field of Study	Engineering remains the top field of study
	Math and Computer Science programs grew by 9.4 percent making it the second-largest field of study for international students

# HELPFUL RESOURCES

# Upcoming Webinar

## *Government Voices Webinar: Get to Know CBP*

- Will air on Feb. 5, 2020
- **CBP presenters include:**
  - Office of the Intergovernmental Public Liaison
  - Office of Field Operations
- Hear about hot topics for students and members of the academic community



### LEARN MORE:

Visit the Study in the States Stakeholder Webinars page

# New Resource

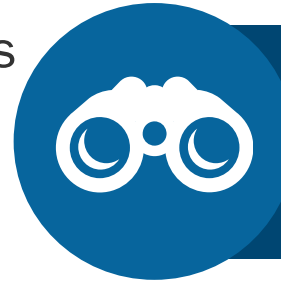
## *How to Navigate Pay.gov*

- **Schools must pay all fees through Pay.gov using:**
  - Bank account
  - Debit card
  - Credit card
- **Form-17 fees**
  - Search “SEVIS” in the search bar
  - Select “I-17 SEVIS School Certifications”
  - Enter the amount your school is paying based on submission
- **Form I-290B appeals fee**
  - Search “Form I-290B” in the search bar
  - Select “Form I-290B Notice of Appeal or Motion”
  - Payment can also be completed using PayPal and Amazon

# Resource for New DSOs

## *Download New Resource Guide*

- Points new DSOs to useful information to identify resources and assist with reporting requirements
  - Creating an Initial Form I-20
  - Maintaining accurate SEVIS records
  - Record registration guide
  - SEVIS name standards
  - Proof of financial support
  - SETA
- Resources divided into three sections:
  - General resources
  - SEVIS resources
  - Contact information

**REMEMBER:**

Access this guide and other resources on the Study in the States Resource Library

[StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Resource-Library](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Resource-Library)



# Sign up for GovDelivery

## *Subscribe to Receive Updates*

- **SEVP distributes regular program updates via GovDelivery**
  - SEVP Spotlight quarterly newsletter
  - SEVP Outreach Bulletin
  - Monthly program updates
  - Breaking program news
- **Subscribe to receive GovDelivery updates at [ICE.gov/SEVP](https://ice.gov/SEVP)**
  - Enter email in the Stay Connected box on left side of page



### REMEMBER:

Sign up to receive updates from SEVP's government partners

# Connect with Study in the States

## *Social Media*



TWITTER  
[@StudyinStates](#)



LINKEDIN

[Linkedin.com/Company/Student-and-Exchange-Visitor-Program](https://www.linkedin.com/company/student-and-exchange-visitor-program)



FACEBOOK

[Facebook.com/StudyintheStates](https://www.facebook.com/StudyintheStates)

# Engage with SEVP

## *Stay Connected*



### KEY NEWS AND CONTENT

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

#### Publications

*Available through GovDelivery*

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](https://twitter.com/StudyinStates)



[Facebook.com/StudyintheStates](https://Facebook.com/StudyintheStates)



[Linkedin.com/Company/Student-and-Exchange-Visitor-Program](https://Linkedin.com/Company/Student-and-Exchange-Visitor-Program)

# 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