



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# SEVP

STUDENT AND EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM

National Association of State Administrators and  
Supervisors of Postsecondary Schools (NASASPS)

Annual Conference Briefing

*April 29, 2014*

# Agenda

- About SEVP
- Certification and Recertification
- Compliance Updates
- Policy News
- Field Representatives Roll-out
- Partner Coordination and Outreach
- Government Resources
- Question and Answer

# About SEVP

- Certify institutions
- Recertify every two years
- Monitor compliance
- Withdraw schools
- Develop policy for institutions and students
- Outreach to stakeholders
- Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)
- SEVP Analysis and Operations Center (SAOC)
- SEVP Response Center (SRC)
- SEVP Field Representatives

# Division of Responsibility with Department of State

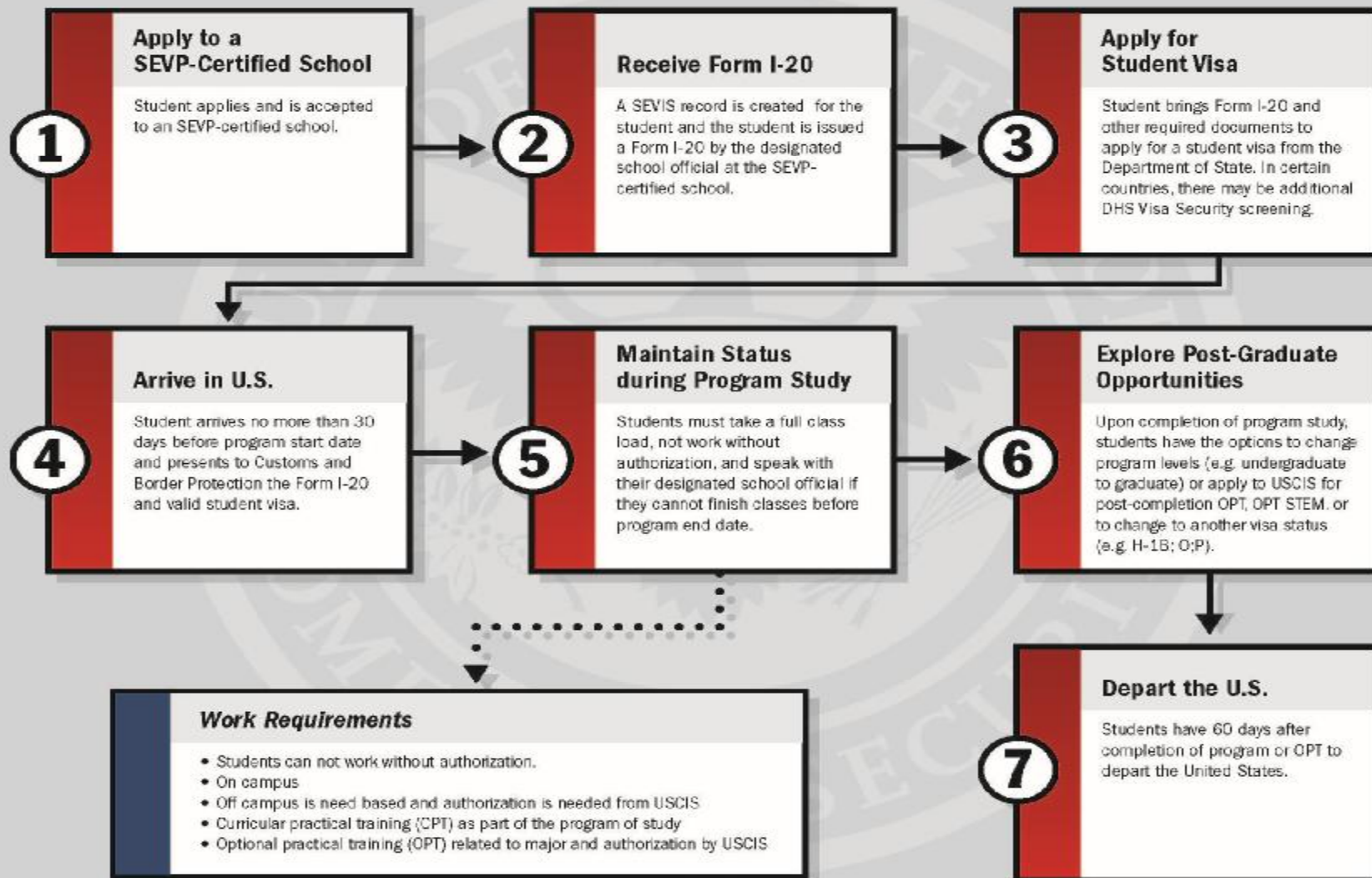


- SEVP certifies schools
- SEVP maintains SEVIS
- SEVP manages participation of F and M nonimmigrant students
- State Department designates exchange visitor program sponsors
- State Department issues F, M and J visas
- State Department manages exchange visitors

# Forms Overview

Form I-17	Form I-20	Form I-901
<p>“Petition for Approval of School for Attendance by Nonimmigrant Student”</p>	<p>“Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status”</p>	<p>“I-901 SEVIS fee”</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submitted electronically to apply for and maintain a school’s certification in SEVIS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paper record of information in SEVIS</li> <li>Necessary for visa application</li> <li>Signed by designated school official (DSO)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The fee is \$200 for F and M students</li> <li>Paid once, before the student comes into the United States.</li> <li>Associated with the SEVIS ID on the Form I-20</li> </ul>

## International Student Lifecycle



# Certification Process

Schools wishing to enroll nonimmigrant students must:

1. Apply and be granted SEVP certification to accept nonimmigrant students
  - File the U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Form I-17, “Petition for Approval of School for Attendance by Nonimmigrant Student”
  - Provide required evidence
  - Receive a school visit from SEVP
  - Complete a comprehensive adjudication process
2. Appoint a DSO
3. Submit to continuous monitoring through SEVIS for compliance with federal regulations



# Certification vs. Accreditation

- Certification
  - Granted by SEVP
  - Required to enroll nonimmigrant students
  - Recertification every two years
- Accreditation
  - From a regional or national organization
  - Recognized by U.S. Department of Education (ED)

Ø Separate distinctions

Ø Accreditation by an ED-recognized organization can simplify the process for SEVP certification



# Certification Updates

- Initials and updates
  - Committed to reducing wait times
- Recertification
  - 100% of all eligible schools have been notified
  - Rolling process
- Resources
  - Certification best practices
    - [StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/schools/certification](http://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/schools/certification)
  - Form I-17 Tutorial
    - [StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/i-17-tutorial](http://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/i-17-tutorial)

# SEVP Analysis & Operations Center

- Compliance best practices
- English as a Second Language (ESL) Accreditation Act update
  - December 14, 2013 deadline
  - Guidance for affected institutions
- Out of cycle reviews and site visits
- Optional practical training (OPT) update
  - Best practices and reminders

# Policy Updates

- Draft Guidance for comment
  - Welcome stakeholder feedback
  - [StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/draft-guidance](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/draft-guidance)
- Regulatory updates
  - DSO limitations
  - Dependent part-time study
- A look ahead
  - Upcoming draft guidance feedback opportunities

# Field Representatives

- Hired first 15 of 60 field representatives
  - Serve as liaison between SEVP and schools
  - 60 field representatives will be distributed across three regions (east, west, central)
  - 8 week training at SEVP
- Deployment schedule
  - First class: April 2014
  - Upcoming classes: hiring announced on [USAjobs.gov](http://USAjobs.gov)

# Intergovernmental Coordination

- The White House
- Department of Homeland Security Headquarters
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
- Congressional Members and Staff
- Office of Management and Budget
- Department of Education
- Department of State
- Federal Bureau of Investigations
- Social Security Administration
- Department of Motor Vehicles

# Government Resources

- *Study in the States*
  - Webinars and Live Q&A sessions
  - SEVP guidance for comment
  - Social media platforms
    - Twitter: @StudyinStates
    - Facebook: Facebook.com/StudyintheStates
    - Blog: StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/blog
- SEVP publications
  - *SEVP Spotlight Newsletter (Quarterly)*
  - *SEVP Conference Bulletin (Monthly)*

# SEVP Values Your Feedback

- Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey
  - [StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/schools/conferences/survey](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/schools/conferences/survey)



# Question and Answer

- For case specific questions, contact the SEVP Response Center:
  - (703) 603–3400
  - [SEVP@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:SEVP@ice.dhs.gov)
  - Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET, except holidays
- For technical issues, contact the SEVIS Help Desk:
  - (800) 892–4829
  - Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET, except holidays