

Broadcast Message: Important Reminders about Students and OPT Reporting

To: All SEVIS users

Date: Nov. 9, 2017

Re: Important Reminders about Students and OPT Reporting

Number: 1711-02

General Information

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) asks designated school officials (DSOs) to ensure their F-1 international students know what steps to take if they encounter fraud while participating in optional practical training (OPT).

As a reminder, the purpose of OPT is to allow international students the opportunity to gain valuable experience in their program of study while in the United States. Therefore, it is imperative that international students comply with all U.S. laws and regulations while participating in OPT. Failure to do so may result in students being designated as out of status and subject to removal from the United States.

If an F-1 international student witnesses fraudulent activity by an OPT recruiter or company, the student should contact the ICE's Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) tip line at 1-866-DHS-2ICE or www.ICE.gov/tips. Victims and witnesses of criminal activity may be eligible for immigration relief.

DSOs should highlight the following points with their F-1 international students:

- International students participating in OPT must understand and abide by OPT regulations to maintain their nonimmigrant status.
- International students who rely on recruitment agencies to obtain OPT placements should ensure those agencies are trustworthy and reputable. Reputable recruiters will not modify a student's resume or academic background to secure OPT placement.
- International students who encounter fraudulent activity tied to OPT should contact the HSI tip line immediately and make a report.

For more information about OPT regulations, visit the [Practical Training](#) section of the ICE website or the [Training Opportunities in the United States page](#) on Study in the States.

Comments

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