

## **Broadcast Message: DHS Redesignates and Extends Special Student Relief Employment Benefits to Syrian Students Experiencing Severe Economic Hardship**

**To:** All SEVIS Users

**Date:** July 29, 2022

**Number:** 2207 - 05

---

### **General Information**

On Aug. 1, 2022, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) posted a [Federal Register Notice](#) announcing the suspension of certain regulatory requirements for F-1 nonimmigrant students from Syria who are experiencing severe economic hardship as a result of the civil war in Syria. This notice redesignates Special Student Relief (SSR) to include eligible students who are in lawful F-1 status as of Aug. 1, 2022, and extends relief until April 1, 2024.

This notice temporarily suspends applicable on-campus and off-campus employment regulations for eligible Syrian students. DHS will continue to monitor the situation in Syria and will announce any additional modifications or extensions to these notices in the Federal Register.

The notice applies exclusively to F-1 nonimmigrant students who meet all of the following conditions:

- Are citizens of Syria regardless of country of birth (or individuals having no nationality who last habitually resided in Syria);
- Are lawfully present in the United States in an F-1 nonimmigrant status on Aug. 2, 2022;
- Are enrolled in a Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)-certified school;
- Are currently maintaining F-1 nonimmigrant status; and
- Are experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the civil war in Syria.

The suspension of these requirements will remain in effect until April 1, 2024, for Syrian students.

Please refer to the [Syria Federal Register Notice](#) for more information regarding:

- The specific SSR action effective with this notice;
- Who is covered by this SSR action;
- Why DHS took this SSR action; and
- How to apply for employment authorization under this SSR action.

For more information about SSR and when eligible students may apply, please view the [What is Special Student Relief?](#) infographic in the Study in the States [Resource Library](#). If you have case-specific questions, please contact the SEVP Response Center at 703-603-3400 or 800-892-4829, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET, except federal holidays.

### **Disclaimer**

This Broadcast Message is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a rule or a final action by SEVP. It is not intended to, does not, and may not be relied upon to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by any party in any administrative, civil or criminal matter.

