

Broadcast Message: DHS Announces Special Student Relief Employment Benefits to Somali Students Experiencing Severe Economic Hardship

To: All SEVIS Users

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General Information

On July 21, 2021, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) posted a [Federal Register notice](#) announcing that, beginning on Sept. 18, 2021, certain regulatory requirements will be suspended for F-1 nonimmigrant students from Somalia who are experiencing severe economic hardship as a result of the current crisis in the country.

This notice will temporarily suspend applicable on-campus and off-campus employment regulations for eligible Somali students beginning on Sept. 18, 2021. DHS will continue to monitor the situation in Somalia and will announce any additional modifications or extensions to this notice in the Federal Register.

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

- Are citizens of Somalia, regardless of country of birth;
- Are lawfully present in the United States in F-1 nonimmigrant status on Sept. 18, 2021;
- Are enrolled in an 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 current crisis in Somalia.

The suspension of these requirements will remain in effect until March 17, 2023 for Somali students.

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

- The specific Special Student Relief (SSR) action;
- 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.

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