

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

To: All SEVIS Users

Date: March 2, 2022

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General Information

On March 2, 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 South Sudan who are experiencing severe economic hardship as a result of the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan.

This notice temporarily suspends applicable on-campus and off-campus employment regulations for eligible South Sudanese students. DHS will continue to monitor the situation in South Sudan 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 South Sudan regardless of country of birth;
- Are lawfully present in the United States in an F-1 nonimmigrant status on March 3, 2022;
- 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 humanitarian crisis in South Sudan.

The suspension of these requirements will remain in effect until Nov. 3, 2023, for South Sudanese students.

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

- The specific Special Student Relief (SSR) action effective with the 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.

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