

Broadcast Message: DHS Extends Special Student Relief Employment Benefits to Afghan Students Experiencing Severe Economic Hardship

To: All SEVIS Users

Date: Sept. 21, 2023

Number: 2309-04

General Information

On Sept. 21, 2023, 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 Afghanistan who are experiencing severe economic hardship as a result of the current armed conflict and humanitarian crisis. This notice redesignates Special Student Relief (SSR) to include eligible students who are in a lawful F-1 status as of Sept. 25, 2023, and extends relief until May 20, 2025.

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

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

- Are citizens of Afghanistan regardless of country of birth (or individuals having no nationality who last habitually resided in Afghanistan);
- Are lawfully present in the United States in an F-1 nonimmigrant status on the date of publication of this notice;
- 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 current armed conflict and humanitarian crisis.

The suspension of these requirements will remain in effect until May 20, 2025, for Afghan students.

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

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

Additional information about SSR and when eligible students may apply is available on the [F-1 Special Student Relief Fact Sheet](#) at [ICE.gov/SEVP](https://ice.gov/SEVP) and the [What is Special Student Relief?](#) infographic in the Study in the States [Resource Library](#). Stakeholders with case-specific questions can contact the SEVP Response Center (SRC) via phone at 703-603-3400 or 1-

800892-4829 or via email at SEVP@ice.dhs.gov. The SRC is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET, except for federal holidays.

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