

DHS Guidance on Remote Learning and SEVIS Reporting Requirements for Foreign Students

March 25, 2020

VISIT THE CARLTON FIELDS CORONAVIRUS RESOURCE CENTER



The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) is the Department of Homeland Security program that administers the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). SEVP manages data related to nonimmigrant students and exchange visitors to preserve national security and provides oversight to schools authorized to enroll F and M nonimmigrant students.

- SEVP confirms that F-1 students can temporarily engage in online learning, either in the United States or outside the country.
- SEVP has provided [guidance](#) to SEVP-certified schools that have adapted procedures to minimize the impact of COVID-19 while maintaining progress in a full course of study as required by federal regulations. SEVP has indicated its intention to be flexible with these adaptations, but it is requiring schools to notify SEVP of changes within 10 business days.
- SEVP has also posted an optional coronavirus [school reporting template](#) that schools can use to report temporary procedural adaptations.

- Other considerations for foreign students:
 - Schools may request reduced course load designation in SEVIS for F-1 students who wish to remain enrolled but are unable to continue their studies due to illness.
 - F-1 students who are outside the United States may check on travel restrictions at the websites of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Homeland Security, and the U.S. Embassy in their country.
 - Special Student Relief (SSR) is a regulatory designation that may provide relief for foreign students. Regulatory requirements that may be suspended or altered for an F-1 student who wishes to remain enrolled include duration of status, full course of study, and off-campus employment eligibility. SSR has not yet been designated in connection with the COVID-19 crisis.

Authored By



Federico M. Maciá

Related Practices

[Immigration Planning and Compliance](#)

[Education](#)

[International](#)

©2024 Carlton Fields, P.A. Carlton Fields practices law in California through Carlton Fields, LLP. Carlton Fields publications should not be construed as legal advice on any specific facts or circumstances. The contents are intended for general information and educational purposes only, and should not be relied on as if it were advice about a particular fact situation. The distribution of this publication is not intended to create, and receipt of it does not constitute, an attorney-client relationship with Carlton Fields. This publication may not be quoted or referred to in any other publication or proceeding without the prior written consent of the firm, to be given or withheld at our discretion. To request reprint permission for any of our publications, please use our Contact Us form via the link below. The views set forth herein are the personal views of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the firm. This site may contain hypertext links to information created and maintained by other entities. Carlton Fields does not control or guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this outside information, nor is the inclusion of a link to be intended as an endorsement of those outside sites.