

Anticipated SEVIS Release 5.0 RTI System Changes

As of April 5, 2005

Planned Production Release Date: June 24, 2005

NOTE: The installation of all anticipated system changes identified in this document is dependent on successful completion of testing.

The following highlights the planned changes for this release for the SEVIS Real-Time Interactive (RTI).

SEVIS RTI System Enhancements

All RTI Users

Country Lists

- The Country of Birth list and the Country of Citizenship and the Country of Legal Permanent Residence list will be updated.
- The Country of Birth list (F/M/J) list will contain both historic and current countries from the **Federal Information Processing Standards Publications (FIPS) 10** list so that the actual country in which the student, exchange visitor, or dependent was born can be documented. The following countries will be added to the Country of Birth list:

Additions to Country of Birth List	
Canal Zone	Republic of Viet-Nam
Canton and Enderbury Islands	Sikkim
Central and Southern Line Islands	Southern Rhodesia
Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam	Southern Ryukyu Islands
French Territory of the Afars and Issas	Spanish North Africa
Federal Republic of Germany	Spanish Sahara
German Democratic Republic	Svalbard and Jan Mayen
Gilbert and Ellice Islands	Swan Islands
Gilbert Islands	Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Iraq-Saudi Arabia Neutral Zone	United States Misc. Pacific Islands
Israel-Jordan Demilitarized Zone	Yeman (Sanaa)
Israel-Syria Demilitarized Zone	Yemen (Aden)
Portuguese Timor	

- The Country of Citizenship list (F/M/J) and the Country of Legal Permanent Residence list (J) will contain only *current* country names as identified in **FIPS 10-4**. As a result, **Czechoslovakia** and **Union of Soviet Socialist Republics** will be removed from these lists.

IMPORTANT: This change will require updates to records with a Country of Citizenship or Country of Legal Permanent Residence of either Czechoslovakia or Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (e.g., a record with a Country of Citizenship of Czechoslovakia would need to be updated to either Czech

Republic or Slovakia). Czechoslovakia and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics will continue to display on the SEVIS record and print on the Form I-20 and Form DS-2019, so users should search for these records and update them as soon as possible. SEVIS RTI will not require this update unless the Personal Information screen (F/M) or Biographical Information (J) screen is updated.

- Records with **Serbia** or **Montenegro** as the Country of Citizenship or Country of Legal Permanent Residence will be automatically changed to the new country name of **Serbia and Montenegro**.
- The Country of Citizenship and Country of Legal Permanent Residence lists will be updated to reflect the changes to country names listed below. Once Release 5.0 is implemented, the old names will be replaced with the new names in both lists as well as on all SEVIS records with any of the following countries:

Old Name	New Name
Burkina	Burkina Faso
Korea, Democratic People's Republic of	North Korea
Korea, Republic of	South Korea
Macedonia	Macedonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Palau)	Palau
Wake Island	Wake Atoll
Western Samoa	Samoa
Yugoslavia	Serbia and Montenegro
Zaire	Congo, Democratic Republic of the

- More information on FIPS can be found at: <http://www.itl.nist.gov/fipspubs/index.htm>.

Exchange Visitor Program Sponsors

Exchange Visitor Updates

- An RO/ARO will have the ability to enter Visa, Passport, and Port of Entry information for an exchange visitor during the validation process. However, if Visa, Passport, or Port of Entry information was added to the exchange visitor's record through a SEVIS interface with another government system, the RO/ARO will not be permitted to modify this information. (Note: The information entered by the RO/ARO can be overwritten by a SEVIS interface; however, information from a SEVIS interface cannot be overwritten by an RO/ARO.)
- The RO/ARO will be able to shorten the program duration for an exchange visitor using the Shorten Program function. A new Program End Date that meets the maximum and minimum duration of participation rules, and Remarks related to shortening the program must be entered. The RO/ARO will be able to print an updated Form DS-2019 for Active status exchange visitor and dependent records.
- "Completed" has been added as one of the reasons the RO/ARO can choose to indicate that an exchange visitor's program has ended.
- When the Termination Reason of "Other" is used, the RO/ARO must enter an explanation for the termination in the Other (required if Other is selected above) field.
- An exchange visitor's SEVIS record's status will change to Inactive on the Effective Completion Date or Terminated on the Effective Termination Date entered by the RO/ARO. The Program End Date on the record will be retained to reflect the original intention of the program.
- When funding for an exchange visitor is provided by All other organizations providing support, the name of the organization(s) must be provided in the associated text field. The name of the organization(s) will print on the Form DS-2019.

- When “Other” is selected as the type of funding for either U.S. Government Agency(ies) or International Organization(s) in the Financial Information section of the Form DS-2019, the name of the agency(ies)/organization(s) must be provided in the associated text field(s). The name of the organization(s) will print on the Form DS-2019.

Form DS-2019 Printing

- The watermarked copy of the Form DS-2019 will no longer be generated when a Form DS-2019 is printed.
- When an Active status exchange visitor’s Form DS-2019 is printed, all Active status dependent Form(s) DS-2019 associated with the exchange visitor will also be printed when the following actions are performed:
 - Biographical Information updated
 - Financial Information updated
 - Site of Activity address modified
 - Site of Activity added
 - Subject/Field updated
 - Program extended within the maximum duration of participation
 - Matriculation
 - DoS has approved the Change of Category request
 - DoS has approved the extension beyond maximum duration of participation request
 - DoS has approved the reinstatement request

When an Initial status exchange visitor’s Form DS-2019 is printed, all Initial status dependent Form(s) DS-2019 associated with the exchange visitor will also be printed when the following actions are performed:

- Site of Activity added
- Site of Activity modified
- Financial Information modified
- Category modified
- Subject/Field description modified
- Subject/Field remarks modified
- Program date(s) amended
- Biographical Information modified

Matriculation

- The Matriculate functionality for an exchange visitor will be modified to permit the RO/ARO to change the category of any college/university student, except non-degree, to any other college/university student category, provided the new student category is an increase in degree level. The degree levels for an exchange visitor in a college/university student category, in increasing levels are: Associate, Bachelor, Master, and Doctorate.

Site of Activity

- The RO/ARO will have the ability to identify the Primary Site of Activity, which is the Site of Activity that will print on an exchange visitor’s and dependent’s Forms DS-2019 in the U.S. Address field. If the Primary Site of Activity is changed, the RO/ARO will be able to print an updated Form DS-2019 for the exchange visitor and all dependents in Active status. The RO/ARO will only be able to delete a Site of Activity from Draft or Initial status exchange visitor records.

- All categories of exchange visitors will be required to have at least one Site of Activity. When Release 5.0 is implemented, the system will automatically make the most recently updated Site of Activity listed on the exchange visitor's record in SEVIS the Primary Site of Activity for all exchange visitor and dependent records.

IMPORTANT: Prior to printing Forms DS-2019, RO/AROs should verify that the correct Site of Activity is selected as the Primary Site of Activity, and update the exchange visitor records as appropriate.

Correct Minor or Technical Infraction

- The following reason will no longer be available as a reason to Correct a Minor or Technical Infraction for an exchange visitor in Active status: "Failure to conclude a transfer of a program prior to end date of the current DS-2019".

F-1 / M-1 Approved Schools

CLAIMS Interface

- The Student Information screens will be modified to display the Receipt Number received from CLAIMS when displaying request information for Optional Practical Training (OPT), Off-Campus Employment (OCE), Change of Status, M-1 transfer, and M-1 extension. The Receipt Number will be viewable by all users who are permitted to view request information.
- The Benefit Start Date will be displayed for approved Change of Status transactions received from the CLAIMS interface. The Benefit Start Date will be viewable by all users who can view approved Change of Status request information.

Costs Exceed Resources

- The message displayed to the PDSO/DSO asking for confirmation of submission when the Total Costs exceed Total Resources for an update to a student's financial information will be removed. The system will continue to prevent the PDSO/DSO from submitting a Draft Form I-20 if the total costs (Form I-20, Field 7) exceed total resources (Form I-20, Field 8).
- The Alert for students whose costs exceed their resources will be removed.

Student Updates

- When canceling an F-1/M-1 student record, a PDSO/DSO will be required to select a reason for cancellation from a drop-down list. The available reasons are:
 - Offer withdrawn
 - Record created in error
 - Student arrived under different SEVIS ID
 - Student not attending
 - Student registered under different SEVIS ID
- The PDSO/DSO will have the ability to indicate that a student is in his/her last session of the program by selecting a checkbox under the Registration action. If the last session is indicated, the Next Session Start Date field will not be required.

Form I-20 Printing

- When a student's Form I-20 is printed after requesting an extension or OPT employment, all associated Active status dependent Forms(s) I-20 will be printed.

- When a transfer student's Form I-20 is printed after creating the Form I-20 during the transfer-in process, all associated Initial status dependent Form(s) I-20 will be printed.

Authorization to Drop Below Full Course Load

- The Authorization to Drop Below Full Course Load functionality will be modified. Multiple segments of Authorization to Drop Below Full Course may be entered and viewed through SEVIS RTI. The maximum duration of the Authorization to Drop Below Full Course Load may be 12 months for F-1 students and 5 months for M-1 students. The start date for Drop Below Full Course Authorization cannot be less than the student's Program Start Date and must be greater than or equal to the date the request is entered in SEVIS. Drop below segments may not overlap. The end date of the authorization cannot be less than the date the request is entered in SEVIS and cannot be greater than the student's Program End Date.
- Additional functionality will be added to permit editing of an authorization to drop below segment. Prior to the start date of the drop below authorization, all fields related to the request may be edited. After the authorization start date, only the authorization reason and authorization end date may be edited.

Off-Campus Employment (OCE)

- The Off-Campus Employment (OCE) screen will be modified to display a list of previous OCE segments. The PDSO/DSO will have the ability to add a new segment of OCE, cancel an OCE segment prior to adjudication, and edit an OCE segment prior to adjudication.

Optional Practical Training (OPT) Employment

- The PDSO/DSO will be required to indicate whether the student has met the one full year academic requirement when submitting an OPT employment request. This will result in the statement "The student has met the 1 full academic year requirement" printing on page 3 of the student's Form I-20.

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) Employment

- The PDSO/DSO will have the ability to cancel a Curricular Practical Training (CPT) segment prior to the employment start date.

SEVIS RTI System Corrections

All Users

CLAIMS Interface

- Adjudication results received from CLAIMS for J-1 Change of Status requests will be correctly processed.

Exchange Visitor Program Sponsors

Exchange Visitor Updates

- The automated maintenance function that sets an exchange visitor's record to Inactive status on the day after the Program End Date will be modified to perform this action only if the record is in Active status.
- The following reasons for ending the program for an exchange visitor will be removed:
 - Cancellation – Change of Status

- Change of Status
- Denied – Change of Status

F-1 / M-1 Approved Schools

Student Updates

- The termination reasons are different for F-1 and M-1 students. The values in the drop-down list under the Terminate Student action will now be dependent upon the student's visa type.