Student and Exchange Visitor Program

Correct SEVIS Status and Reinstatement-Update SEVIS Status Options for Exchange Visitor Program Officials (J-Visa)

1. Type – CORRECT SEVIS STATUS: ACTIVE TO INITIAL
Issue: Responsible Officer/Alternate Responsible Officer (RO/ARO) accidentally validated the exchange visitor's (EV) SEVIS record before the EV arrived in the United States.
Correction Option: The "Correct SEVIS Status" option enables ROs/AROs to change the status of an EV's SEVIS record from Active to Initial within 30 days of the status change.
Prevention: If the EV has not reported to the sponsor, do not validate the SEVIS record.

2. Type – CORRECT SEVIS STATUS: INVALID TO INITIAL
Issue: Exchange visitor (EV) has not arrived in the United States (SEVIS record does not contain Port of Entry information) and a Responsible Officer/Alternate Responsible Officer (RO/ARO) failed to amend the Program Begin Date to indicate a later arrival date for the EV's participation in his/her program activity.
Correction Option: The "Correct SEVIS Status" option enables ROs/AROs to change the status of an EV's SEVIS record from Invalid to Initial within 30 days of the status change.
Prevention: If the EV has informed the sponsor of his/her intention to change his/her Program Begin Date to a later date of participation, use the "Amend Program" option to change the date in SEVIS. The EV's SEVIS record will remain in Initial status for 30 days following the new Program Begin Date.

3. Type – CORRECT SEVIS STATUS: INVALID TO ACTIVE
Issue: Exchange visitor (EV) has arrived in the United States and reported to the sponsor (SEVIS record does not contain Port of Entry information) and the Responsible Officer/Alternate Responsible Officer (RO/ARO) failed to validate the EV's participation in their program activity. The EV's SEVIS record is now in Invalid status
Correction Option: The "Correct SEVIS Status" option enables ROs/AROs to change the status of an EV's SEVIS record from Invalid to Active within 30 days of the status change.
Prevention: Instruct the EV to report to the sponsor immediately. Once the EV reports to the sponsor and is ready to begin participation in his/her exchange visitor program activity, validate the EV's SEVIS record. Validation will change the status of the SEVIS record from Initial to Active.

4. Type – CORRECT SEVIS STATUS: NO SHOW TO ACTIVE
Issue: Exchange visitor (EV) has arrived in the United States and reported to the sponsor (SEVIS record contains Port of Entry information) and the Responsible Officer/Alternate Responsible Officer (RO/ARO) failed to validate the EV's participation in their program activity. It is now more than 30 days after the Program Begin Date and the status of the SEVIS record is No Show.
Correction Option: The "Correct SEVIS Status" option enables the RO/ARO to change the status of an EV's SEVIS record from No Show to Active within 30 days of the status change.
Prevention: Instruct the EV to report to the sponsor immediately. Once the EV reports to the sponsor and is ready to begin participation in his/her exchange visitor program activity, validate the EV's SEVIS record. Validation will change the status of the SEVIS record from Initial to Active.

5. Type – CORRECT SEVIS STATUS FOR DEPENDENTS
Issue: The Responsible Officer/Alternate Responsible Officer (RO/ARO) changed the SEVIS status of the exchange visitor's (EV) dependent (J-2) to Invalid, No Show, or Terminated status within the past 30 days.
Correction Option: The "Correct SEVIS Status" option enables ROs/AROs to change the status of a dependent's SEVIS record from Invalid, No Show, or Terminated to the status of the EV's (J-1) SEVIS record. It must be 30 days or less since the dependent's SEVIS status changed separately from the EV's status; and, the dependent's SEVIS status (J-2) does not match the EV's (J-1) SEVIS status.
Prevention: When the dependent's record must be changed separately from the EV's record, instruct the EV to communicate the intention of the dependent (for example if/when they will be entering the United States). Instruct the EV to continue communication of the dependent's activities while in the United States.

6. Type – REINSTATEMENT - UPDATE SEVIS STATUS
Issue: The status of an exchange visitor's (EV's) or dependent's SEVIS record is incorrect and it has been more than 30 days but less than 271 days since the SEVIS record changed status.
Correction Option: The "Reinstatement – Update SEVIS Status" option enables ROs/AROs to request the following status changes to an EV's SEVIS record: Active to Initial; Invalid to Initial; Invalid to Active; No Show to Active; and, Terminated to Active. The Responsible Officer/Alternate Responsible Officer (RO/ARO) must submit a request with supporting documentation to the Department of State's Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation for review. The "Reinstatement – Update SEVIS Status" option also enables ROs/AROs to request to change the status of a dependent's SEVIS record separately from the EV's SEVIS record.
Prevention: The RO/AROs are responsible for the administration and oversight of the program for which the sponsor is designated. An RO/ARO must change the Program Begin Date to reflect the most accurate date on which an EV participant may be expected. An RO/ARO must validate the SEVIS record of an EV when they report to the sponsor and begin participating in their program activity.

Instructions for administering an exchange visitor program are contained in the SEVIS user manuals (Volumes I and II) that are located on the Department of State web site: http://exchanges.state.gov/education/jexchanges

NOTE: Sponsors are required to administer their exchange visitor program in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations (i.e., 22 CFR Part 62). Section 641 of P.L. 104-208 mandates the collection of information on any individual utilizing or acquiring an F, M or J visa in SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System). Section 502 of P.L. 107-173 addresses an institution's material failure to comply with the recordkeeping and reporting requirements to receive nonimmigrant students and exchange visitor program participants. While SEVIS has been developed to provide users with the capability of making certain changes or updates to the SEVIS records in an effort to alleviate the earlier "data fix" situation, use of the correction options in SEVIS outlined above does not relieve the sponsor from their obligation to administer their exchange visitor program in accordance with all regulations. The Department of State monitors the use of these options when reviewing the sponsor's request for redesignation, program expansion, etc.