Broadcast Message: Policy Guidance on Form I-20 Issuance and School Use of Recruiters

To: All SEVIS Users

Date: June 5, 2019

Re: Policy Guidance on Form I-20 Issuance and School Use of Recruiters

Number: 1906-01

General Information

On June 4, 2019, the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) published a Policy Guidance document on Form I-20 “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status,” Issuance and School Use of Recruiters. The Form I-20 is issued to nonimmigrant students who have been accepted for enrollment at an SEVP-certified educational institution in the United States.

The new Policy Guidance clarifies that for reasons of privacy, security and fraud prevention, the SEVP-certified school must issue the Form I-20 directly to the nonimmigrant student, their dependents or, for minors, to the parent or guardian of the nonimmigrant student. Recruiters may not receive the Form I-20 directly from a school’s designated school official and control the distribution of the Form I-20 for the prospective student.

The Form I-20 is a record of the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). Information contained in SEVIS is classified as personally identifiable information and is subject to the SEVIS System of Records Notice published in the Federal Register, pursuant to the Privacy Act of 1974. Consequently, SEVP is required to protect the information in the Form I-20 and its disclosure is only permitted to enumerated parties and only under limited circumstances.

Review and download the new Form I-20 Issuance and School Use of Recruiters Policy Guidance on ICE.gov here.

If you have questions about the Form I-20 Issuance and School Use of Recruiters Policy Guidance, 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 on federal holidays.

Comments

To comment on this Broadcast Message, please email SEVP@ice.dhs.gov with “Broadcast Message 1906-01 Comment” entered in the subject line.

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