

## **Broadcast Message: Exemptions from Direct Issuance of the Form I-20**

**To:** DSOs and PDSOs at SEVP-certified schools

**Date:** Jan. 7, 2020

**Number:** 2001-01

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### **General Information**

Per the Student and Exchange Visitor Program's [policy guidance titled, "Form I-20 Issuance and School Use of Recruiters,"](#) released on June 4, 2019, designated school officials (DSOs) must issue the Form I-20, "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Students," directly to the F-1 student, parent or legal guardian. At no time should the Form I-20 be issued to a third party.

SEVP will only grant exemptions from this policy in specific instances where circumstances prevent direct issuance. Examples include:

- Students who are in countries where U.S. courier services do not operate.
- Students who are in areas with inadequate infrastructure or services that make deliveries generally difficult or would be unsecured.

To request an exemption from this policy, DSOs should contact the SEVP Response Center in writing with the individual student's name and the circumstances warranting an exemption. The DSO should also identify the individual who will be receiving the Form I-20 on the student's behalf and the person's relationship to the student. If a school has multiple students in the same situation, such as more than one student from the same country where courier services do not operate, DSOs may submit requests for those students at one time, but must identify each student individually. DSOs should retain in the student's record the request for specific exemptions for the issuance of the Form I-20.

SEVP will not grant exemption requests submitted by any other individual or entity.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the SEVP Response Center at 703-603-3400 or 800-892-4829 or by email at [SEVP@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:SEVP@ice.dhs.gov), Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET, except on federal holidays.

### **Comments**

To comment on this Broadcast Message, please e-mail [SEVP@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:SEVP@ice.dhs.gov) with "Broadcast Message 2001-01 – Comment" entered in the subject line.

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