

## **Broadcast Message: DHS Announces Special Student Relief Employment Benefits to Hong Kong Resident Students Experiencing Severe Economic Hardship**

**To:** All SEVIS Users

**Date:** Nov. 24, 2021

**Number:** 2111 - 04

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### **General Information**

On Nov. 24, 2021, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) posted a [Federal Register notice](#) announcing the suspension of certain regulatory requirements for F-1 nonimmigrant students who are Hong Kong residents and are experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of emergent circumstances in Hong Kong.

This notice will temporarily suspend applicable on-campus and off-campus employment regulations for eligible Hong Kong residents. The Federal Register notice defines a Hong Kong resident as an “individual of any nationality, or without nationality, who has met the requirements for, and been granted, a Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Passport, a British National Overseas Passport, a British Overseas Citizen Passport, a Hong Kong Permanent Identity card, or a Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Document of Identity for Visa Purposes.” DHS will continue to monitor the situation in Hong Kong and will announce any additional modifications or extensions to this notice in the Federal Register.

The notice applies exclusively to F-1 nonimmigrant students who meet all of the following conditions:

- Are Hong Kong residents, regardless of country of birth;
- Are lawfully present in the United States in F-1 nonimmigrant status on Nov. 26, 2021;
- Are enrolled in an Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)-certified school;
- Are currently maintaining F-1 nonimmigrant status; and
- Are experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the emergent circumstances in Hong Kong.

The suspension of these requirements will remain in effect until Feb. 5, 2023, for eligible F-1 nonimmigrant students.

Please refer to the [Hong Kong Federal Register notice](#) for more information regarding:

- The specific Special Student Relief (SSR) action;
- Who is covered by this SSR action;
- Why DHS took this SSR action; and
- How to apply for employment authorization under this SSR action.

For more information about SSR and when eligible students may apply, please view the [What is Special Student Relief?](#) infographic in the Study in the States [Resource Library](#). If you have case-specific questions, 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 federal holidays.

## **Disclaimer**

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