

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

**To:** All SEVIS Users

**Date:** May 19, 2022

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### **General Information**

On May 19, 2022, 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 from Afghanistan who are experiencing severe economic hardship as a result of the current situation in Afghanistan.

These notices temporarily suspend applicable on-campus and off-campus employment regulations for eligible Afghan students. DHS will continue to monitor the situation in Afghanistan and will announce any additional modifications or extensions to these notices in the Federal Register.

These notices apply exclusively to F-1 nonimmigrant students who meet all of the following conditions:

- Are citizens of Afghanistan regardless of country of birth (or individuals having no nationality who last habitually resided in Afghanistan);
- Are lawfully present in the United States in an F-1 nonimmigrant status on May 20, 2022;
- Are enrolled in a 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 current situation in Afghanistan.

The suspension of these requirements will remain in effect until Nov. 20, 2023, for Afghan students.

Please refer to the [Afghanistan Federal Register Notice](#) for more information regarding:

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

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.

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