

Broadcast Message: DHS Redesignates and Extends Special Student Relief Employment Benefits to Somali Students Experiencing Severe Economic Hardship

To: All SEVIS users

Date: March 10, 2023

Number: 2303-02

General Information

On March 10, 2023, 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 Somalia who are experiencing severe economic hardship as a result of the current crisis in Somalia. This notice redesignates Special Student Relief (SSR) to include eligible students who are in a lawful F-1 status as of March 18, 2023 and extends relief until Sept. 17, 2024.

These notices temporarily suspend applicable on-campus and off-campus employment regulations for eligible Somali students. DHS will continue to monitor the situation in Somalia 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 a citizen of Somalia regardless of country of birth (or an individual having no nationality who last habitually resided in Somalia);
- Were lawfully present in the United States on the date of publication of this notice in F-1 nonimmigrant status;
- Are enrolled in an SEVP-certified school;
- Are currently maintaining F-1 nonimmigrant status; and
- Are experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the current crisis in Somalia.

The suspension of these requirements will remain in effect until Sept. 17, 2024, for Somali students.

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

- The specific SSR action effective with this notice;
- Who is covered by these SSR actions;
- Why DHS took these SSR actions; and
- How to apply for employment authorization under this SSR action.

Additional information about SSR and when eligible students may apply is available on the [F-1 Special Student Relief Fact Sheet](#) at [ICE.gov/SEVP](https://ice.gov/SEVP) and the [What is Special Student Relief?](#)

infographic in the Study in the States [Resource Library](#). Stakeholders with case-specific questions can contact the SEVP Response Center (SRC) via phone at 703-603-3400 or 1-800-892-4829 or via email at SEVP@ice.dhs.gov. The SRC is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET, except for federal holidays.

Disclaimer

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