

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

**To:** All SEVIS Users

**Date:** Jan. 29, 2024

**Number:** 2401-04

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### **General Information**

On Jan. 29, 2024, 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 Syria who are experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the current armed conflict and current humanitarian crisis in Syria. This notice extends Special Student Relief (SSR) for eligible Syrian students from April 1, 2024, until Sept. 30, 2025.

This notice temporarily suspends applicable on-campus and off-campus employment regulations for eligible Syrian students. DHS will continue to monitor the situation in Syria 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 a citizen of Syria regardless of country of birth (or an individual having no nationality who last habitually resided in Syria);
- Are lawfully present in the United States in an F-1 nonimmigrant status on the date of publication of this notice;
- 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 armed conflict and humanitarian crisis.

The suspension of these requirements will remain in effect until Sept. 30, 2025, for Syrian students.

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

- The specific SSR action effective with this notice;
- Who is covered by this SSR action;
- Why DHS took this SSR action; 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](mailto: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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