



Issuing the Redesigned Form I-20

Q: Will all current students need to be issued a redesigned Form I-20, “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status,” or will the one they previously received allow for travel?

A: Students can use the Form I-20 they were previously issued to travel. The old form will remain valid until July 1, 2016.

Q: Will designated school officials (DSO) need to print out redesigned Forms I-20 or DS-2019, “Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status,” for all current nonimmigrants after the forms have been revised? Alternatively, will we be able to print out revised forms as needed (e.g., when the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) record is updated)?

A: There will be a phase-in period before the redesigned Form I-20 is required. Students must have the new version of the Form I-20 by July 1, 2016. There is currently no deadline for when exchange visitors must use the redesigned Form DS-2019.

Q: When will the Form I-20 changes happen? Are we required to reprint all Forms I-20 or is that optional?

A: The redesigned Form I-20 will be available after the June 26, 2015 SEVIS release. There is no requirement to reprint Forms I-20 immediately. You can make decisions based on individual cases. However, all students must have the redesigned form by July 1, 2016.

Q: Does the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) have resources that DSOs can provide to students to inform and update them about the redesigned Forms I-20 and DS-2019?

A: Yes. A fact sheet on the redesigned Form I-20 is available on [Study in the States](#).

Q: How do DSOs issue the redesigned Form I-20?

A: The process for issuing the redesigned Form I-20, directly from a student’s SEVIS record, will be the same. SEVP is developing new reprint functionality that will allow users to request a reprint of multiple Forms I-20 to print at one time. SEVP will provide training on the multiple reprint function once this functionality is available.

Q: Can the redesigned Form I-20 be emailed to students?

A: No. Students will still need a hard copy of their Form I-20 with original signatures.

Q: How do you access the redesigned Form I-20?

A: SEVIS will generate the new forms in the same way it generates the current form. Simply reprint the redesigned form from SEVIS.

Q: How will the revised forms affect admissions season and visa applications during the summer?

A: As SEVP will not require individuals to have the new forms right away for either admissions or visa applications, the impact should be minimal. SEVP is working closely with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau Consular Affairs to make the transition as smooth as possible.



Form Fields

Q: Will the instructions currently on page two of the Form I-20, “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status,” be revised to reflect changes in terminology, department names, etc.?

A: Yes. The instructions on the form will be updated and moved to page three. The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is also being modified to make it easier to update the instructions in the future.

Q: How will the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) handle pre-printing of the designated school official (DSO) name in the travel signature section of the redesigned Form I-20?

A: Due to strong DSO preferences, we will no longer pre-print the DSO name in the travel signature section of the redesigned Form I-20.

Q: Will the redesigned Form I-20 be two or three pages?

A: The redesigned Form I-20 will be three pages; however, the instructions are on the third page instead of the second page.

Q: Will the redesigned Form I-20 require a parental signature for students 14 years of age and younger?

A: SEVP policy states that a parental signature is required of students 18 years-old and younger. This policy does not change with the redesigned Form I-20.

Q: Will the redesigned Form I-20 include I-901 SEVIS Fee payment, date of U.S. entry and visa issuance information?

A: No. The only new information added to the redesigned Form I-20 are the new name fields.

Q: Will the third page of the redesigned Form I-20 be required for entry to the United States?

A: No. The instructions will be on the third page and are not required for U.S. entry.

Q: Will students still need a travel signature?

A: Yes. SEVP is looking at the possibility of adding an electronic signature field; however, a release date has yet to be identified. Until then, a travel signature will be required.

Q: Will student data required for creating a Form I-20 also be revised?

A: The student data collected for the redesigned Form I-20 will not change; however, SEVP will implement new name and U.S. address standards. Changes to the redesigned Form I-20 include the rearranging of information and additional name fields.

Q: Will there be additional signature spaces on the redesigned form?

A: No. There will not be additional signature spaces.

Government Interaction

Q: Will U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) be kept abreast of the Form I-20, “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status,” and Form DS-2019, “Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status,” changes so secondary inspection screening does not spike?

A: Yes. The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) is working closely with CBP to minimize



any temporary confusion about the redesigned forms. The new forms will make it easier for CBP officers to identify the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) ID and appropriate class of admission.

Q: Will the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Consular Affairs be kept abreast of the Form I-20 and Form DS-2019 changes?

A: Yes. SEVP is communicating with Department of State’s Bureau Consular Affairs. They know there will be old and new versions of the forms. They also understand that the new version and what is currently in SEVIS may be different.

Q: Will other government entities, such as the Social Security Administration (SSA), U.S. Departments of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) be told about the changes and have a preview of the redesigned Form I-20?

A: Yes. SEVP is working with the other agencies including SSA, DMVs and SAVE. In addition, there will be a Federal Register notice about the redesigned form and redesigned form samples will be available on Study in the States.

Q: Do DMVs have access to SAVE similar to SSA and therefore have some level of interface with SEVIS?

A: Yes. SAVE is available to all DMVs.

SEVIS Release 6.21

Q: The June SEVIS Release and Form I-20, “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status,” update fall while the majority of students are on summer vacation and potentially out of the country. What impact will there be on students coming back to campus in August if they have the old Form I-20?

A: There should be no impact. Presuming nonimmigrants have all of their required documentation at the U.S. port of entry, they should be able to enter the United States without issue.

Q: When will this release deploy and when will the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) be unavailable for system users?

A: SEVIS Release 6.21 will deploy beginning June 26, 2015. This release is one of the largest in SEVIS history and SEVIS will be unavailable from 8 p.m. EDT, Friday, June 26 until 8 p.m. EDT, Sunday, June 28.

Batch Processing

Q: Will the redesigned Forms I-20, “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status,” and Form DS-2019, “Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status,” updates affect the batch process?

A: The form updates do not affect the batch process. Once SEVIS Release 6.21 is deployed and the forms have been updated, you will get the new version of the forms from batch processing, instead of the old version.



Form I-20 Travel Authorization Signatures

Q: Do designated school officials (DSOs) have to sign the Form I-20, “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status,” for a student to enter the country if they leave for summer break?

A: DSOs should use their judgment to determine if a travel signature is needed. If the travel signature is old, a new one should be considered. Please note, the travel authorization signature will now be on the second page of the redesigned Form I-20.

Q: Since DSO names will not be pre-printed on the redesigned Form I-20, will the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) no longer pre-print a date there as well?

A: Correct. No information will be pre-printed on the travel authorization section.