

F-1 Special Student Relief (SSR)¹

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What is F-1 Special Student Relief (SSR)?

Special Student Relief (SSR) is the **suspension** of certain regulatory requirements for eligible F-1 students from countries experiencing emergent circumstances as determined by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). When a country is designated or redesignated for SSR, a notice is published in the [Federal Register](#)²

- An SSR notice will **suspend** restrictions related to on- and off-campus employment and **may alter** full course of study requirements for **eligible F-1 students**.
- For a list of countries that are currently designated for SSR, please visit the Student and Exchange Visitor Program's (SEVP) "[What's New Page](#)."³

Who is Eligible for SSR?

In general, an SSR notice applies to **F-1 students** who meet all of the following conditions:

- Are defined as "**F-1 students**" under [8 CFR 214.2\(f\)\(9\)](#)⁴,
- Are **a citizen of the designated country** in the DHS notice (regardless of country of birth or last habitually resided in the designated country if they have no nationality),
- Were **lawfully present** in the United States in F-1 nonimmigrant status on the date specified in the applicable SSR notice,
- Are **enrolled** in an academic institution that is **certified** by [SEVP](#)⁵ to enroll F-1 nonimmigrant students,
- Are currently **maintaining F-1 nonimmigrant status**, and
- Are **experiencing severe economic hardship** as a direct result of the emergent circumstances in their country.

How Can I Request SSR?

Eligible **F-1 students** must provide evidence to their Designated School Official (DSO) that they were:

1. Lawfully present in the United States on the date specified in the applicable notice, and
2. Request that the DSO update their Student and Exchange Visitor Program ([SEVIS](#))⁶ record and issue a new [Form I-20](#)⁷ certifying their eligibility.

¹ www.ice.gov/sevis/f1-ssr

² www.federalregister.gov/

³ www.ice.gov/sevis/whats-new

⁴ www.ecfr.gov/current/title-8/chapter-I/subchapter-B/part-214/section-214.2

⁵ studyinthestates.dhs.gov/school-search

⁶ www.ice.gov/sevis

⁷ studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students/prepare/students-and-the-form-i-20

Note: To be authorized for off-campus employment, the student must obtain a recommendation from their DSO and apply to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for an [employment authorization document \(EAD\)](#)⁸.

SSR Programs	Most Recent Effective Start Date*	End Date
Afghanistan (citizens); extended on 9/25/23	May 22, 2022; Sept. 25, 2023	November 23, 2023; May 25, 2025
Burma / Myanmar (citizens)	May 25, 2021	May 25, 2024
Cameroon (citizens)	June 7, 2022	December 7, 2023
Ethiopia (citizens)	December 12, 2022	June 12, 2024
Haiti (citizens)	January 26, 2023	August 3, 2024
Hong Kong (residents)	January 26, 2023	February 5, 2025
Somalia	March 18, 2023	September 17, 2024
Syria (citizens)	April 22, 2021	April 1, 2024
Venezuela (citizens)	April 22, 2021	September 9, 2022
Yemen (citizens)	January 3, 2023	September 3, 2024
South Sudan (citizens)	March 3, 2022	November 3, 2023
Sudan (citizens)	October 20, 2023	April 19, 2025
Ukraine (citizens), extension 8/21/2023	April 19, 2022; extended on August 21, 2023	October 19, 2023; extended to April 19, 2025
Sudan (citizens)	April 19, 2022	October 19, 2023

⁸ www.uscis.gov/employment-authorization