

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

**To:** All SEVIS users

**Date:** July 19, 2024

**Number:** 2407-03

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### **General Information**

On July 19, 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 Somalia who are experiencing severe economic hardship as a result of the current crisis in Somalia. This notice extends Special Student Relief (SSR) for eligible students from Sept. 18, 2024, until March 17, 2026.

This Notice 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 in the Federal Register.

This notice applies exclusively to F-1 nonimmigrant students who meet all of the following conditions:

- Are citizens of Somalia regardless of country of birth (or individuals having no nationality who last habitually resided in Somalia);
- Are lawfully present in the United States in an F-1 nonimmigrant status on July 19, 2024;
- 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 crisis in Somalia.

The suspension of these requirements will remain in effect until March 17, 2026, 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.dhs.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.

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