SEVP / SEVIS

How Does It Affect Me?

A Collaborative Approach to International Student Success

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Session Overview

- International student overview
- SEVIS/SEVP requirements
- Implications to students
- Collaborative messaging
- Implications to institutions
- SEVP naming convention
- Address standards
- CIP codes and recruiting
Office of International Education

• OIE at CU-Boulder handles
  • Outgoing students (study abroad)
  • Incoming students (international students)
  • Incoming scholars (faculty, researchers, visitors) and their visa issues are also handled by ISSS

• CU-Boulder’s Designated School Officers and Responsible Officers in International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)
  • ISSS is a unit within OIE
International Students in the US

1954: 34,232 international students
2015: 1.13 million international students
International Students in the US

CU-Boulder OIE identifies an international student as follows:

- **Temporary visa**
  - In the US on a temporary basis (to study)
  - Will presumably return home upon completion of studies

- **Non-immigrant**

Two student visa types: F-1 and J-1

Other visa types possible

- Depends why the foreign national is in the US
International Students in the US

Generally not on temporary visas:

- **Permanent residents/immigrants (green card holders)**
  - Have been granted resident status
  - Can live and work permanently in the US

- **Refugees/asylees**
  - Displaced people who are unable to return home due to instability in their countries
  - Usually on track to become immigrants eventually
Evolution of the SEVIS System

1993 World Trade Center Bombing
- Student visa used to enter the US
- Student dropped out of school, rented a truck, and exploded a bomb at the WTC
- No real-time information on international students and their activities
- Result: 1996 IIRIRA Act, mandating a tracking system

1997 Pilot Program initiated: CIPRIS
- Electronic Reporting system for reporting and monitoring international students and exchange visitors
- Test program
- Decommissioned in 1999

9/11/2001 Attacks
- Tourist and student visas used to enter the US
- Result: USA Patriot Act mandates a digitized system to track international students and exchange visitors in the US

2002 SEVIS Launch
- School certification required to admit and enroll international students
- All certified schools using SEVIS by 2003
SEVIS and SEVP

SEVIS:

- **Student and Exchange Visitor Information System**
- Department of Homeland Security database
- Tracks all F1 visa students, J1 visa students and scholars (exchange visitors)
- Immigration documents can only be issued through this database for this population

SEVP:

- **Student and Exchange Visitor Program**
- Entity that administers the SEVIS program
- Reports to Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Institutions wanting to admit and enroll international students...

- **On the F1 student visa:**
  - Must be certified by SEVP
  - *Designated School Officers* (DSOs) handle F1 visa students
  - Requires completing a form with information about the degrees offered, programs, dates of attendance, costs, accreditation information, etc.

- **On the J1 student visa:**
  - Must be designated by the US Dept of State
  - *Responsible Officers* handle J1 visa students and visitors
  - Requires completing a form with information about the school’s programs and bona fides and submitting a fee
Implications of SEVIS Certification

• Institutions that admit F1 international students must recertify every 2 years
  • Allows SEVP to verify compliance with SEVIS reporting
• Institutions must update their certification with any new institution data
  • If your institution adds a new degree program or course of study, this must be updated and approved before immigration documents can be issued to international students using the new data.
SEVIS Requirements for International Students

- Must be full-time enrolled (limited exceptions)
- Must update physical address within 10 days of moving
- Must update any name changes
- Cannot work on campus more than 20 hours/week while school is in session
- Cannot work off campus without authorization, and usually must be directly related to major area of study
- Cannot remain in the US on student visa if no longer enrolled
- Etc.
Student Failure to Comply

If an international student fails to comply with F-1 or J-1 requirements:

• School must report (i.e. hit the “terminate” button) listing reason
• Student’s SEVIS record will show as “terminated”
• Student loses legal status to remain in the US
• May also result in future difficulties in getting a US visa or entry to the US
Avoid Confusing International Students

In addition to what any student must know and do to succeed, international students must balance additional difficulties:

1. Language adjustment, if English is not native language
2. Adjust to US cultural landscape
3. Adjust to US classroom culture
4. Comply with visa status requirements
5. Possibly comply with additional requirements from home-sponsor and/or home-government
6. All while very far from home family/friend support system
## Non-Collaborative Messaging

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Consequence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registrar’s office sends all students a reminder of the last day to drop a class. International student with 12 credits is struggling with a class and decides to drop. This is his chance to avoid an F. His professor agrees it’s a good idea.</td>
<td>The student dropped below full-time and thus is now under-enrolled. He is now reportable for “Failure to be full-time enrolled” and can be terminated. This student must check with the international office about a possible exception before dropping to less than full-time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International student finds information on the university website about the time-off process and decides to take a semester off to compete in snowboard competitions in the US. This is fine with her department as long as she completes paperwork about her intent to return the following semester.</td>
<td>The student cannot remain in the US on a student visa if not full-time enrolled! This student should check with the international office about options to maintain her visa status if she wants to remain in the US for the purposes of competing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- International students do not understand implied exceptions
- They expect administrative offices, advisors and instructors will give them complete and accurate information
International students may think that institutional policies and practice aligns with regulations of their visa. For example:

- Dropping below full-time
- Taking a semester off
- Getting a job or working extra hours

Visa regulations are important to keep in mind when working with or messaging to international students!

- How does your office collaborate with the international student office?
- What are some ways to improve?
SEVIS Requirements for Institutions

• Issue documents only when admissible
• Register with SEVIS when student first arrives
• Report within 21 days when a student:
  • Transfers in or out
  • Withdraws or goes on time off
  • Fails to maintain full-time enrollment
  • Graduates
  • Changes levels or majors
  • Is expelled or suspended
  • Begins authorized off-campus employment
  • Fails to comply with SEVIS requirements

• Retain records of international students
University Failure to Comply

Consequences:
• Institution can lose ability to enroll international students
• Designated School Official (DSO) can be held liable

Examples:
• University of North Carolina at Charlotte (2011):
• Tri-Valley (2013):
• LA trade schools (2015):
In or about June 2005, Briggs was terminated by the University. The comprehensive investigation conducted by ICE #3 has not revealed any additional national security concerns.

"No UNC’s designated school official for handling foreign student cases, Briggs broke the law and, in the process, compromised the integrity of our immigration system," said U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina Anne W. Tompkins. "As we have learned from the past, such conduct can place our national security at risk and requires an immediate and thorough investigation of the breach of security and purposes behind the conduct. Based on the identification of Briggs’ conduct and the prompt notification to law enforcement authorities by UNC officials, we were able to determine that Briggs was only involved in a misguided, but nevertheless illegal, effort to assist foreign students in completing their academic studies. I want to thank UNC for their swift reporting of the violation and for their cooperation throughout the investigation.

I also want to thank ICE #3 for their thorough investigation of this matter and I want to assure the public that the safety of our communities was not jeopardized in any way by Briggs’ criminal conduct."

Briggs entered a plea of guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge David S. Cayer. He faces a maximum term of five years in a federal prison and a maximum fine of $250,000. Briggs remains free on bond, and a sentencing date has not been set yet.

The prosecution for the government was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig D. Randall of the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Charlotte.
Data Sharing for SEVIS Reporting

• Data sharing with international student services offices is critical
• Key data elements from SIS for reporting to SEVP:
  • Admitted to your campus
  • Address change
  • Full-time enrollment or drop below full-time
  • Name change
  • Change of major or level
  • Graduation
  • Withdrawals/time off, etc.
Questions for Registrar/Admissions

• Who is handling this reporting on your campus?
• Do you share data with your international office to help them comply with SEVIS reporting?
• How can you share this data so that it can be reported within the 21-day requirement?
• How can our offices work collaboratively to comply with the required government reporting?
SEVP Name Convention

- Since 2014, mandatory by 2015
- Comply with standards governing machine-readable travel documents
- Convert foreign names into standardized format
- Search for individuals more reliably
- Improve accuracy of name matching with other government systems
- Prevent unacceptable characters in names within SIS
## SEVP Name Convention

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEVP Convention</th>
<th>Issue:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surname/Primary name required (last name field)</td>
<td>Students with only one name have to have that name in the Surname field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No middle names</td>
<td>All middle names must be moved into the Given (First) Name field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No special characters, hyphens, apostrophes or commas (Latin alphabet only, no diacritical marks)</td>
<td>Use the passport’s Machine Readable Zone or the US-issued visa for guidance on ‘correct’ convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No LNU, FNU, UNK</td>
<td>These must be removed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

More details:
Passport Machine Readable Zone (MRZ)
# More Examples of MRZ

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Arkfreith (Single names must be entered in the Surname field, regardless of whether they are listed as given or family names in the passport VIZ.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>VIZ:</strong></td>
<td>ARKFREITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MRZ:</strong></td>
<td>P&lt;UTOARKFREITH&lt;------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SEVIS:</strong></td>
<td><em>Surname/Primary Name:</em> Arkfreith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Given Name:</strong> Arkfreith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Preferred Name:</strong> Arkfreith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Passport Name:</strong> Arkfreith</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Missing Passport MRZ

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Fatima Haidari (Name as written on school application)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>VIZ:</strong></td>
<td>FATIMA HAIDARI D/O MIR AHMAD (Note: d/o = daughter of)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MRZ:</strong></td>
<td>No MRZ available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SEVIS:</strong></td>
<td><em>Surname/Primary Name:</em> Haidari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Given Name:</strong> Fatima</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Preferred Name:</strong> Fatima Haidari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Passport Name:</strong> Fatima Haidari</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SEVP Name Convention Impacts on Current Student Records

How will you apply these standards in your SIS and who will do it?

CU-Boulder campus impact:
- 2200 student records (plus dependents)
- 750 exchange visitor records (plus dependents)
- All have to be updated with the new convention

Some options:
- Convert current student names in SIS?
- Add a separate name field for SEVP name?
- Maintain two databases (SIS and ISSS system)?
SEVP Name Convention Impacts on Incoming Student Records

• At the point of application/admission, enter names consistent with SEVP Name Convention standards.
• This would allow your ISSS office to issue immigration documents with the ‘correct’ name convention.
• Can your SIS have SEVP name conventions and also provide option for students’ preferred spelling on transcripts/diplomas?
SEVP Standards for Addresses and Email Addresses

June 2015 Transition

• Validation of all US street and email addresses to ensure they are complete and legitimate
• Addresses not in the format get rejected
• ISSS offices struggling with this issue now
• Probably a training issue with international students
CIP Code Assignments

• Optional Practical Training (OPT)
  • F1 visa status students can apply for **12 months** of work permission upon completion of their course of study

• OPT Extension
  • F1 students on OPT who graduated with a STEM major may get an extension of **17 months**
CIP Codes and Recruiting

Thus...

CIP code assignments are increasingly becoming factor in recruitment.

- Who assigns CIP codes for your campus?
- Do departments/schools/colleges at your institution lobby to change CIP code assignments to STEM-designated degree programs?
Questions?

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