



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

AUG 20 2020

Matt Copel
President
Materials Research Society
506 Keystone Drive
Warrendale, PA 15086

Dear Mr. Copel:

Thank you for your July 10, 2020 letter to President Trump regarding modifications to the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP). Your letter was forwarded to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for response.

SEVP, a program within ICE Homeland Security Investigations, manages and oversees the process that authorizes educational institutions to enroll nonimmigrant students. With more than one million foreign students in the United States and nearly 8,000 educational institutions approved to enroll students, SEVP plays an important role in protecting national security while simultaneously cultivating international relationships. In performing this role, SEVP is charged with ensuring that the laws and regulations enacted to protect Americans are not exploited.

As noted in the July 24, 2020 broadcast message, *Follow-up: ICE Continues March Guidance for Fall School Term*,¹ F and M students, as well as SEVP-certified schools, should abide by SEVP guidance originally issued in March 2020. This guidance enables schools and students to engage in distance learning in excess of regulatory limits due to the public health emergency generated by the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic. The March 2020 guidance applies to nonimmigrant students who were actively enrolled at a U.S. school on March 9, 2020 and are otherwise complying with the terms of their nonimmigrant status, whether from inside the United States or abroad. In accordance with the March 2020 guidance, F and M students in new or initial status after March 9, 2020 will not be able to enter the United States to enroll in a U.S. school as a nonimmigrant student for the fall term to pursue a full course of study that is 100 percent online. For additional information, please refer to SEVP's *Frequently Asked Questions for SEVP Stakeholders about COVID-19*.²

Stakeholders can refer to SEVP's current policy guidance at www.ice.gov/coronavirus, under the Nonimmigrant Students and SEVP-certified Schools header. The program recently updated its frequently asked questions with information to clarify the application of the March

¹ <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/bcmFall2020guidance.pdf>

² <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/coronavirus/covid19faq.pdf>

2020 guidance to the fall 2020 term and will continue to update these resources with the latest information and guidance for stakeholders. SEVP will continue to provide updates to the academic community through our communication channels, including broadcast messages, SEVP field representatives, Study in the States blog posts,³ and social media.

Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,

***Student and Exchange Visitor Program
Homeland Security Investigations***

³ <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/>