



Special Student Relief (SSR)

Regulations allow the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to suspend or alter rules regarding duration of status, full course of study, and employment eligibility, for specific groups of F-1 students from parts of the world that are experiencing emergent circumstances. This collection of benefits is known as "special student relief" (SSR).

SSR is available to certain F-1 students experiencing severe economic hardship due to emergent conditions - such as civil unrest, economic crisis, natural disasters, or other circumstances - in their country of citizenship (or in certain cases, residence). If granted, SSR removes certain types of restrictions on F-1 employment, and may allow authorized students to reduce their course load below full-time.

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) maintains a set of [SSR Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the SEVP website for F-1 students.

Each SSR program has specific start and end dates, as published in the US government's Federal Register. For an up-to-date list of countries eligible under SSR, please click [here](#) and scroll down to Special Student Relief.

Eligibility for SSR

- Are the citizen of a country specified in the Federal Register
- Have lawfully resided in the U.S. for the dates indicated in the Federal Register Notice.
- Have reported "on time" to Immigration Services (IS) and maintained full-time enrollment.
- Are currently maintaining F-1 status as students, not on post-completion practical training.
- Are experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the emergent circumstances in their country of [citizenship](#).

Students who are interested in applying for SSR need to contact their Immigration Advisor to request a recommendation for the SSR application to USCIS. Please click [here](#) to determine who your advisor is.