

Student and Exchange Visitor Program Office
SEVIS Technical Conference Call with the Educational Community
Questions and Answers from Wednesday, August 23, 2006

- 1. Timeline for SEVIS 5.4 Release 1
- 2. Procedure for 5-year Extensions for J Researchers/Professors who Entered Before SEVIS Release 5.4 1

1. Timeline for SEVIS 5.4 Release

As many schools/programs are entering a very busy time of year (the beginning of a new academic term), being able to plan for the potential changes in business practices regarding the next release of SEVIS will be very useful. Could SEVP provide any further updates on the expected rollout date of SEVIS Release 5.4 and how much advance notice DSOs/AROs will be given before the release is put into place?

Response: We understand the importance of your need to plan ahead for potential changes in your business practices. However, due to system testing constraints and competing schedules, we are unable to provide a specific release date other than that we look forward to implementation of SEVIS Release 5.4 this fall. Once an official date is confirmed, SEVP will inform the Educational Community via broadcast message.

2. Procedure for 5-year Extensions for J Researchers/Professors who Entered Before SEVIS Release 5.4

SEVIS release 5.4 will put into effect the Department of State regulations allowing a J-1 research scholar or professor to participate in the Exchange Visitor Program for up to 5 years. For exchange visitors that have entered the United States in J researcher or professor status prior to SEVIS 5.4, will RO/AROs be able to extend their stay simply by using the standard Extension within the maximum duration of participation function?

Response: Yes.

