

# SEVIS Release 5.7 System Changes

Production Environment Release Date: June 29, 2007

The following summarizes the changes to SEVIS with Release 5.7.

## SEVIS Batch – F/M Visa School Users

The following changes have been made to the processing of SEVIS Batch files. Updated schemas will be online as of the Production Release date; <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/schools/batch.htm>.

### Message Board

SEVIS Batch users should log into SEVIS Real Time Interactive (RTI) periodically to access this feature. Please refer to the SEVIS RTI section of this document for further detail on the message board.

### M-1 Extension

SEVIS Batch restricts the entry of a new Program End Date for an M-1 Extend Program event to one year from the current Program End Date.

### Current Session End Date

SEVIS Batch modified requirements for entry of the “Current Session End Date” field to require the date to be a valid date within the student’s program dates. This allows for past dates to be entered in the Current Session End Date field.

### Defer Attendance

SEVIS Batch prevents a Defer Attendance event for Initial status transfer-in, change education level, or initial attendance with Port of Entry (POE) arrival students.

### Country Code Tables

The SEVIS Batch schema reflects the country code updates per the National Geo-Spatial Intelligence Agency’s Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) 10-4 Change Notice. Countries with closed codes will not appear in Country of Citizenship or Foreign Address Country fields but will still appear in Country of Birth fields. The following items were changed:

- a) Code MJ for “Montenegro” was added
- b) Code RB for “Serbia” was added
- c) Code BZ for “Germany, Berlin” was added as a closed country code (was a valid FIPS country prior to 10/3/1990)
- d) Code YI for “Serbia and Montenegro” was closed
- e) Country name for code MK, “Republic of Macedonia” was updated to “Macedonia”
- f) Country name for code MW, “Montenegro” was updated to “Montenegro (Prior to 2001)”
- g) Country name for code SR, “Serbia” was updated to “Serbia (Prior to 2001)”

**Note:** When editing a student record that contains a closed country code in the Country of Citizenship field, the system will require the user to update that field.

**Batch Table Changes**

The following is an overview of system changes affecting tables and codes used by the SEVIS Batch Interface. The API document reflects the system changes in the displayed section.

	<b>SEVIS Batch: Table &amp; Code Changes</b>	<b>API Section</b>
<b>F/M Visa School Users</b>	Added F Eligibility Processing Error Code – S1114 – Next session start date must be on or after today's date	Appendix B
	Added F Eligibility Processing Error Code – S1115 – Current session end date must be on or after the program start date	Appendix B
	Added F Eligibility Processing Error Code – S1116 – Current session end date must be on or before the program end date	Appendix B
	Added F Eligibility Processing Error Code – S1117 – Next session start date must be on or before the program end date	Appendix B
	Added F Eligibility Processing Error Code – S1118 –Transfer-in student cannot defer attendance	Appendix B
	Added F Eligibility Processing Error Code – S1119 – Cannot defer attendance for student with changed level of education	Appendix B
	Added F Eligibility Processing Error Code – S1120 – Cannot defer attendance for student who has arrived in the U.S.	Appendix B
	Modified F Eligibility Processing Error Message – S1103 – Next session start date must be on or after the current session end date	Appendix B
	Deleted F Eligibility Processing Error Message – S1032 – Current session end date must be equal to or after today's date	Appendix B
	Updated visa issuance post code table	
	Updated country code tables	Appendix F

## **SEVIS Real Time Interactive (RTI) - F/M Visa School Users**

### **Message Board**

This new feature broadcasts messages from the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) to SEVIS users based on the relevance of the information to a user's role within the system. For example, a user with a Principal Designated School Official (PDSO) role only receives information relevant to schools and students. If there are any messages for the user, they will appear upon logging into SEVIS RTI and can be accessed at anytime from within the application (Batch users will need to log into RTI to access messages). The broadcast recipient has the capability to maintain the messages received. Broadcast messages are removed from the message board automatically when the posting end date is reached. If there is no information to broadcast, users do not see the message board upon login.

### **M-1 Extension**

SEVIS restricts the entry of a new program end date for an M-1 Extend Program event to one year from the current Program End Date.

### **Current Session End Date**

SEVIS modified requirements for entry of the "Current Session End Date" field to require that date to be a valid date within the program dates. This allows past dates to be entered in the "Current Session End Date" field.

### **Initial Status Student Actions**

In addition to being able to register an Initial status Transfer-In student, users have an option to terminate transfer-in records via the "Terminate Student" link added to the screen. Also, once POE arrival data displays in SEVIS, neither the "Cancel Student" nor the "Defer Attendance" links are displayed on an Initial Attendance, Initial Status student record.

### **Student Major/Minor Selection**

SEVIS school users have the option to enter a student's Major and/or Minor by either entering the subject code or wildcard searches (indicated by asterisks). For example, searching the following returns Major / Minor subject titles with that exact wording anywhere in the name: \*engineering\*.

### **OPT Edit Capability**

Users have the option to edit OPT requests prior to adjudication. If supporting documentation has already been submitted, SEVIS will display a message notifying the user of appropriate action. School users are also able to edit Employer Name/Address of an Approved status OPT request until the Employment End Date is reached.

### **Pending Status OPT Display**

Regardless of the requested Employment End Date, OPT requests in Pending status display in both the "Students with Pending or Approved Optional Practical Training (OPT)" list as well as on the "Current Request/Authorization Details" page.

### **Student Search**

The Student Search functionality allows a search for a student using Personal Information without being required to enter additional search criteria. In addition, the PDSO and DSO could select up to three statuses when performing a Student Search by Status.

### **Reinstatement**

Upon submission of a student reinstatement request, the "Update Successful" page displays new instructions to the PDSO/DSO. The new instructions include: 1) advising the user to mail documentation to the appropriate DHS Service Center and 2) assigning a request ID to the reinstatement request.

### **Visa Issuance Posts**

The Visa Issuance Posts were updated with data provided by the Department of State (DoS).

## SEVIS Batch – J Visa Program Sponsor Users

The following changes have been made to the processing of SEVIS Batch files. Updated schemas will be online as of the Production Release date; <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/schools/batch.htm>.

### Message Board

SEVIS Batch users should log into SEVIS Real Time Interactive (RTI) periodically to access this feature. Please refer to the SEVIS RTI section of this document for further detail on the message board.

### New Exchange Visitor Categories

SEVIS Batch amended the current "Trainee" category to conform to new regulations and added a new "Intern" category. The amended "Trainee" category will replace the current "Trainee, Specialty" and "Trainee, Non-specialty" categories. Sponsors currently designated for the "Trainee, Specialty" and/or "Trainee, Non-specialty" categories can continue to conduct their programs as designated. Guidance for these categories of exchange will be provided to designated sponsors by the Department of State.

### Country Codes

The SEVIS Batch schema reflects the country code updates per the National Geo-Spatial Intelligence Agency's Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) 10-4 Change Notice. Countries with closed codes will not appear in Country of Citizenship, Foreign Address Country or Country of Legal Permanent Resident fields but will still appear in Country of Birth fields. The following items were changed:

- a) Code MJ for "Montenegro" was added
- b) Code RB for "Serbia" was added
- c) Code BZ for "Germany, Berlin" was added as a closed country code (was a valid FIPS country prior to 10/3/1990)
- d) Code YI for "Serbia and Montenegro" was closed
- e) Country name for code MK, "Republic of Macedonia" was updated to "Macedonia"
- f) Country name for code MW, "Montenegro" was updated to "Montenegro (Prior to 2001)"
- g) Country name for code SR, "Serbia" was updated to "Serbia (Prior to 2001)"

**Note:** When editing an exchange visitor record that contains a closed country code in the Country of Citizenship field, the system will require the user to update that field.

**Batch Table Changes**

The following is an overview of system changes affecting tables and codes used by the SEVIS Batch Interface. The API document reflects the system changes in the displayed section.

	<b>SEVIS Batch: Table &amp; Code Changes</b>	<b>API Section</b>
<b>J Visa Program Sponsor Users</b>	Added J Eligibility Processing Error Code – S2236 – New program end date for extension must be later than current program end date	Appendix B
	Added EV occupation category code table named “EVOccupationCategoryCodeType”.	
	Added category codes 14 and 15 for Trainee and Intern, respectively, to the Program Category Codes table.	Appendix F
	Added J Eligibility Error Code – S2235 – Occupation category code {0} is not valid for this program	Appendix B
	Added DoS Maximum and Minimum Duration of Stay Rules for new Trainee and Intern categories	Appendix F
	Added tags for occupational category codes	Appendix D
	Added the element Occupational Category Code and description	Exhibit P-22
	Updated visa issuance post code table	
	Updated country code tables	Appendix F

**SEVIS Real Time Interactive (RTI) – J Program Sponsors**

**Message Board**

This new feature broadcasts messages from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Department of State to SEVIS users based on the relevance of the information to a user’s role within the system. For example, a user with an ARO role will only receive information relevant to programs and EVs. If there are any messages for the user, they appear upon logging into SEVIS RTI and can be accessed at anytime from within the application (Batch users will need to periodically log into RTI to access messages). The broadcast recipient has the capability to view and/or print the messages received. Broadcast messages will be removed from the message board automatically when the posting end date is reached. If there is no information to broadcast, users do not see the message board upon login.

**New Exchange Visitor Categories**

SEVIS will amend the current "Trainee" category to conform to new regulations and add a new "Intern" category. The amended "Trainee" category will replace the current "Trainee, Specialty" and "Trainee, Non-specialty" categories. Sponsors currently designated for the "Trainee, Specialty" and/or "Trainee, Non-specialty" categories can continue to conduct their programs as designated. Guidance for these categories of exchange will be provided to designated sponsors by the Department of State.

**Visa Issuance Posts**

The Visa Issuance Posts were updated with data provided by the Department of State (DoS).

## **User Manuals, Online Help, and Tutorials**

The user manuals and online help have been updated to reflect the changes implemented into SEVIS Release 5.7.