

Subject: Form I-515A Information

An F-1 or M-1 nonimmigrant student, J-1 Exchange Visitor, or nonimmigrant dependent thereof admitted to the United States with a Form I-515 or I-515A, Notice to Student or Exchange Visitor, is lawfully admitted to the United States for a period of 30 days.

Within those 30 days, the nonimmigrant is required to send to the address indicated on the Form I-515 or I-515A:

- The completed Form I-515 or I-515A;
- An original, signed SEVIS Form I-20 or DS-2019 signed by an official from the school or program; and;
- The original I-94 Arrival/ Departure Record

If the Form I-515 or I-515A is sent to the correct address and includes the proper documentation, a DHS official will review the material and, if the individual is otherwise admissible, will return the SEVIS Form I-20 or DS-2019, the Form I-94 and a short letter of confirmation to the school or program sponsor as appropriate. Therefore, students and exchange visitors must obtain these documents from the school or program official. The Form I-94 will have been amended by the DHS official to reflect the nonimmigrant's full course of study or length of program. In the case of an F-1 student, for example, the returned Form I-94 will reflect an entry that is valid for "D/S", or the duration of the student's program as reflected on the SEVIS Form I-20. As noted above, all documentation will be sent back to the school rather than the individual student.

At the time that a nonimmigrant student or exchange visitor is admitted with a Form I-515 or I-515A, he or she is eligible for all associated benefits, including employment authorization where applicable. The nonimmigrant also maintains status, and eligibility for related benefits, as long as the Form I-515 or I-515A is properly filed with DHS within the initial 30-day admission period.

Therefore, an F-1 or J-1 nonimmigrant who is admitted with a Form I-515 or I-515A may begin authorized employment, and may maintain that employment as long as the Form I-515 or I-515A is properly filed with the DHS within the required timeframe. The SEVIS Form I-20 or DS-2019 will be processed and returned along with the Form I-94 as soon as possible, but a short delay in the return of this documentation to the nonimmigrant student should in no way impact the nonimmigrant's eligibility for otherwise authorized benefits. **Failure to submit complete or original paperwork, as specified above, will result in a delayed response.**