

Request for Special Student Relief (SSR)

SSR may be authorized for students whose home countries are impacted by **natural disasters, wars and military conflicts**, and **national and international financial crises**. SSR becomes possible when DHS issues a Federal Register Notice.

- Student must be a citizen of a country specified in a Federal Register Notice.
- Have lawfully resided in the U.S. for the dates indicated in the Federal Register Notice.
- Have reported on time to their DSO and have been enrolled at Lewis since the event.
- 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.**

Name: _____ Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy): _____
 Country of Birth _____ Country of Citizenship _____
 SEVIS Number _____ Lewis ID Number _____

Step 1: Provide information about your circumstances and severe economic hardship regarding your request for Special Student Relief. This information will be included in your application to USCIS.

Step 2. Gather your materials. In your application, you must include the following documentation for USCIS.

- New I-20 with Special Student Relief recommendation (from your DSO).
- Copy of passport photo page
- Copy of U.S. visa from passport
- Copy of most recent I-94 record
- Two passport-style photos
- Certified Check made out to USCIS (\$410) or [Form I-912](#) requesting a fee waiver



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Step 3: I certify that I will maintain the minimum course requirements as outlined in the Federal Register notice for my country/region. _____

(Student Signature and date)

Step 4: [Submit your I-765 application to USCIS.](#)

(c)(3)(iii) - F-1 seeking off-campus employment due to severe economic hardship	U.S. Postal Service (USPS): USCIS Attn: I-765 C03 P.O. Box 805373 Chicago, IL 60680-5374	FedEx, UPS, and DHL deliveries: USCIS Attn: I-765 C03 (Box 805373) 131 South Dearborn - 3rd Floor Chicago, IL 60603-5517
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The ICE notice recommends sending the application in an envelope which is clearly marked on the front of the envelope, bottom right-hand side, with the phrase "SPECIAL STUDENT RELIEF." <https://www.uscis.gov/i-765-addresses>. Failure to include this notation may result in significant processing delays.

Step 5: Wait for your authorization from USCIS. Once you receive your authorization, please send a copy of your EAD and approval notice to ISGSS@lewisu.edu. You may then begin to work.

The Following Section Will Be Completed by a DSO:

The student above

- Has good academic standing
- Has citizenship in one of the affected countries/regions per the FR notice
- Is meeting minimum course requirements for the authorized employment per the FR notice
- Is maintaining status
- Needs employment to alleviate severe economic hardship caused by the emergent circumstances.

DSO Initials _____ Date _____

**DSO will note any specific information, as recommended by SEVP, in the Remarks section of the I-20.*

Example: "Approved for more than 20 hours per week of [off-campus/on-campus] employment authorization and reduced course load under the Special Student Relief authorization from the date of the USCIS authorization noted in Form I-766 until [end date of federal register notice/end date of program, whichever is first]."

Current Countries with Opportunities for Special Student Relief

Updated 01.03.23

- [Afghanistan](#)
 - Effective May 20, 2022 through November 20, 2023.
 - Student must have been in F-1 status on May 20, 2022.
- [Burma/Myanmar](#)
 - Effective September 27, 2022 through May 25, 2024.
 - Student must have been in F-1 status on September 27, 2022.
- [Cameroon](#)
 - Effective June 7, 2022 through December 7, 2023.
 - Student must have been in F-1 status on June 7, 2022.
- [Ethiopia](#)
 - Effective December 12, 2022 through June 12, 2024.
 - Student must have been in F-1 status on December 12, 2022.
- [Haiti](#)
 - Effective August 3, 2021 through February 3, 2023.
 - Student must have been in F-1 status on August 3, 2021.
- [Hong Kong](#)
 - Effective November 26, 2021 through February 3, 2023.
 - Student must have been in F-1 status on November 26, 2021.
- [Somalia](#)
 - Effective September 18, 2021 through March 17, 2023.
 - Student must have been in F-1 status on September 18, 2021.
- [South Sudan](#)
 - Effective March 3, 2022 through November 3, 2023.
 - Student must have been in F-1 status on March 3, 2022.
- [Sudan](#)
 - Effective April 19, 2022 through October 19, 2023.
 - Student must have been in F-1 status on April 19, 2021.
- [Syria](#)
 - Effective August 1, 2022 through April 1, 2024.
 - Student must have been in F-1 status on August 1, 2022.
- [Ukraine](#)
 - Effective April 19, 2022 through October 19, 2023.
 - Student must have been in F-1 status on April 19, 2022.
- [Venezuela](#)
 - Effective September 10, 2022 through March 10, 2024.
 - Student must have been in F-1 status on September 10, 2022.
- [Yemen](#)
 - Effective January 3, 2023 until September 3, 2024.
 - Student must have been in F-1 status on January 3, 2023.