



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

August 17, 2020

James Grossman
Executive Director
American Historical Association
400 A Street SE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Mr. Grossman:

Thank you for your July 8, 2020 letter to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on behalf of the American Historical Association.

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), a program within ICE Homeland Security Investigations, manages and oversees the process that authorizes educational institutions to enroll nonimmigrant students. With more than one million foreign students in the United States and nearly 8,000 educational institutions approved to enroll students, SEVP plays an important role in protecting national security while simultaneously cultivating international relationships. In performing this role, SEVP is charged with ensuring that the laws and regulations enacted to protect Americans are not exploited.

As noted in the July 24, 2020 broadcast message, *Follow-up: ICE Continues March Guidance for Fall School Term*,¹ F and M students, as well as SEVP-certified schools should abide by SEVP guidance originally issued in March 2020. This guidance enables schools and students to engage in distance learning in excess of regulatory limits due to the public health emergency generated by the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic. The March 2020 guidance applies to nonimmigrant students who were actively enrolled at a U.S. school on March 9, 2020 and are otherwise complying with the terms of their nonimmigrant status, whether from inside the United States or abroad. In accordance with the March 2020 guidance, F and M students in new or initial status after March 9, 2020 will not be able to enter the United States to enroll in a U.S. school as a nonimmigrant student for the fall term to pursue a full course of study that is 100 percent online. For additional information, please refer to SEVP's *Clarifying Questions for Fall 2020 Based On March 9 Spring Guidance Broadcast*.²

Stakeholders can refer to SEVP's current policy guidance at www.ice.gov/coronavirus, under the Nonimmigrant Students and SEVP-certified Schools header. The program recently updated its frequently asked questions with information to clarify the application of the March 2020 guidance to the fall 2020 term and will continue to update these resources with the latest

¹ <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/bcmFall2020guidance.pdf>

² <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/fall2020faq.pdf>

Mr. James Grossman
Page 2

information and guidance for stakeholders. SEVP will continue to provide updates to the academic community through our communication channels, including broadcast messages, SEVP field representatives, Study in the States blog posts,³ and social media.

Thank you again for your letter. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact the ICE Office of Partnership and Engagement at (202) 570-3829.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Gonzalez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Barbara" being more prominent than the last name "Gonzalez".

Barbara Gonzalez
Assistant Director
Office of Partnership and Engagement

³ <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/>