

To: All SEVIS Users  
Date: August 23, 2012  
Re: Change to Processing of Forms I-20 and DS-2019 at U.S. Ports of Entry  
Number: 1208-05

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## Comments

To comment on this Broadcast Message, please e-mail [SEVP@dhs.gov](mailto:SEVP@dhs.gov) with “Broadcast Message 1208-05 – Comment” entered in the subject line.

## General Information

As of Aug. 10, 2012, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) no longer provides admission stamps on the Form I-20, “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status,” and Form DS-2019, “Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status,” for prospective and returning F, M and J nonimmigrants seeking admission to the United States. This change makes CBP processes consistent with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services’ (USCIS) recent change to stop stamping the Form I-20 and Form DS-2019. USCIS implemented this change as part of the launch of its online immigration benefits system, [USCIS Electronic Immigration System \(USCIS ELIS\)](#).

While admission stamps on the Form I-20 and Form DS-2019 are not indicators of lawful status or academic program duration, some state and federal benefit-granting agencies have required F, M and J nonimmigrants to present stamped versions. State requirements vary.

If a state benefit-granting agency rejects an unstamped Form I-20 or Form DS-2019, applicants may make an appointment with USCIS online through [InfoPass](#) and take the Form I-20 or Form DS-2019 to the local USCIS office for an official to stamp the form. This transitional step will end on Nov. 21, 2012.

F, M and J nonimmigrants who encounter issues with their state or federal benefit applications should continue to contact the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) at 703-603-3400 or [SEVP@dhs.gov](mailto:SEVP@dhs.gov).

Additional information is available on the [CBP website](#).

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