

## January 2024 NEWS

### What is SEVIS?

The Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is a web-based system used by the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to maintain information about certificated schools, students studying in the US, and J-1 visiting scholars.

### What is a DSO?

All staff in the Office of International Services (OIS) are designated school officials (DSOs) in SEVIS and serve students at all three USF campuses. There are 15 staff members who are DSOs. They are available during virtual drop in and walk in hours to answer questions about immigration status or work authorization. Students can [meet the staff](#) and view ways to [contact us](#) on our website.

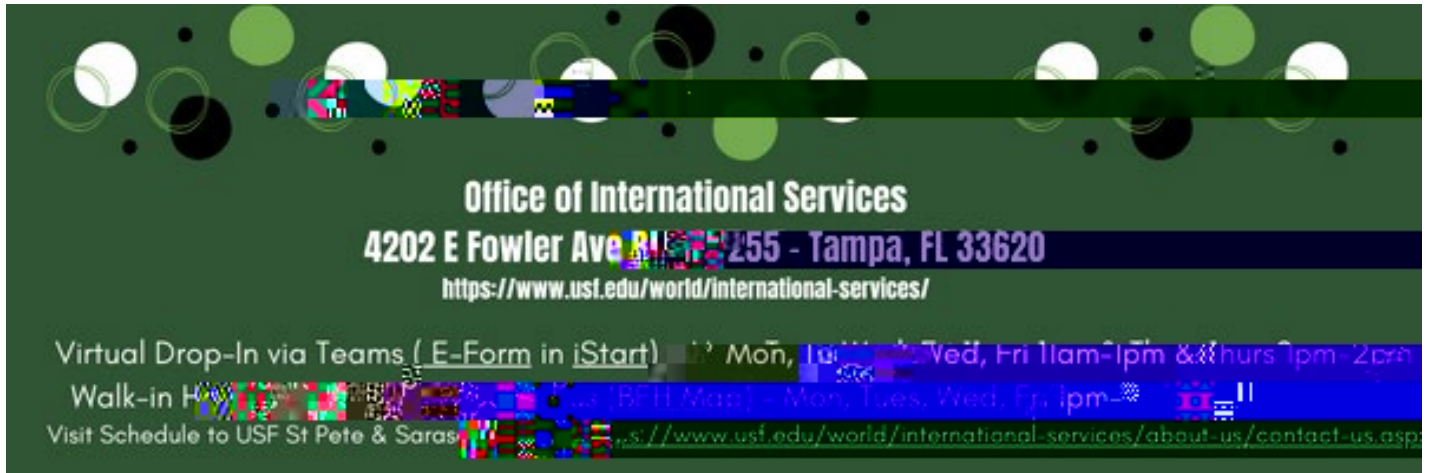
DSOs help students to navigate their status while studying. They are required by law to update and maintain SEVIS records. OIS does this by pulling academic, enrollment, and biographical data into iStart and reviewing for compliance with federal regulations. If students appear to have violated an immigration regulation, an alert shows in iStart and OIS reaches out to the student via their USF email to assist them in making appropriate changes to stay in status.

### Spring Semester Reminders for F-1 Students

- x Address Reporting
  - o F-1 students are required to report their physical US address to OIS within 10 days. This is reported by updating the "local mailing" address in OASIS. For instructions, go to <https://www.usf.edu/world/international-services/immigration/maintaining-your-status/address-updates.aspx>
  - o F-1 students are also required to maintain a foreign address while they are in the US studying. The foreign address on the admission application is imported to OASIS as the permanent foreign address. This address cannot be changed to a US address. It can be updated to another foreign address.
- x Spring Semester Enrollment
  - o F-1 and J1 students who do not follow enrollment rules for their visa status will be contacted by OIS via email. The email will include recommended action. Do not ignore the email.
  - o Students who have questions about their enrollment should attend a Virtual Drop in or Walk in hours to discuss with the immigration advisors/DSOs
    - f F-1 and J1 undergraduate students must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours.
    - f F-1 and J1 graduate students must be enrolled in at least 9 credit hours unless they have completed all coursework and are enrolled in only thesis or dissertation hours.
    - f All F1 and J1 students are restricted to counting one 3 credit hour online course towards their final enrollment.
    - f All F1 must enroll in the majority of their courses at their home campus as it appears on their I



Join our BullsConnect Group <https://bullsconnect.usf.edu/INTLSVCS/clu>



**Office of International Services**  
**4202 E Fowler Ave #15255 - Tampa, FL 33620**  
<https://www.usf.edu/world/international-services/>

Virtual Drop-In via Teams ( E-Form in iStart) Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 11am-1pm & Thurs 1pm-2pm  
Walk-in Hours (BFH Map) - Mon, Tues, Wed, Fr. 1pm-4pm  
Visit Schedule to USF St Pete & Sarasota <https://www.usf.edu/world/international-services/about-us/contact-us.asp>