

May 15, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) has approved the issuance of electronic Form I-20s. In Broadcast Message 2003-03 (<https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/bcm2003-03.pdf>) SEVP identified the following methods for principal designated school officials (PDSOs) and DSOs to sign and send the Form I-20:

- Email a scanned version of the physically signed Form I-20;
- Email a digitally signed Form I-20 using electronic signature software; or
- Email a digitally signed Form I-20 that contains a digitally reproduced copy of a physical signature.

In the Frequently Asked Questions document on the Immigration and Customs Enforcement website (<https://www.ice.gov/coronavirus>), SEVP provided the following additional clarification regarding the electronic Form I-20:

- Forms I-20 issued electronically or with electronic signatures—as permitted during the COVID-19 emergency—will remain valid until students have a need for an updated Form I-20.
- An electronic or digital travel signature will be valid for the same duration as an ink signature (12 months for F students and six months for M students).
- SEVP coordinated with both the Department of State and CBP regarding the policy to allow electronic issuance and signing of Forms I-20 for the duration of the COVID19 emergency. Both agencies are in support of this action. SEVP continues to respond to any issues raised or questions from both agencies about this policy and will provide clarity as needed.

Binghamton University's Office of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) has issued electronic Form I-20s to students in accordance with the guidance provided by SEVP during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you in advance for your assistance to our Binghamton University students.

Sincerely,



Patricia Bello
PDSO, State University of New York at Binghamton
Assistant Provost, International Education and Global Affairs
Director, International Student and Scholar Services