

What is the "I-515A" Form?

The I-515A is a form issued to international students/scholars/dependents by a United States Port of Entry when the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer is not satisfied with the admission documentation that a student/scholar/dependent provides. For example, the border patrol may issue an I-515A if the I-20 or DS-2019 is missing a valid travel signature.

The I-515A Form allows a Temporary entry into the United States of no more than 30 days.

The Form I-94 (the little white card stapled in the passport.), "Arrival/Departure Record" which CBP issues in conjunction with the Form I-515A has a limited validity period of 30 days from the date of issuance.

The Form I-515A has no relationship with how long a nonimmigrant may legally remain in the United States; the Form I-94 issued to the individual at the time of entry is the determinant. An F or J nonimmigrant who does not comply with the terms of the Form I-515A is not legally present in the country once the date on the Form I-94 expires. The nonimmigrant must receive a revised or new Form I-94 from SEVP to remain in the United States.

If you have received a Form I-515A at the Port Of Entry you should come to the I-Center during the I-Center Office Hours http://icenter.stanford.edu/about_us/hours.html - admin to receive the proper guidance or documentation required to complete the submission process within 30 days of your entry into the United States. This is your responsibility.

An I-515A can also be given to a dependent who enters the U.S,

New SEVIS Process for I-515A Form

If a student/scholar or dependent receives an I-515A form at the US re-entry and if he/she does not act upon this appropriately within 30 days then they will violate their legal status. In addition starting July 15, 2011, the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) will automatically terminate the SEVIS record status of F students who do not comply with the Form I-515A directive within the 30-day response period.

Instructions for how to proceed:

As indicated on the Form I-515A instructions, SEVP must receive original documents to make the adjudication. The nonimmigrant must mail the documents, including the Form I-94, to SEVP at the following address:

<http://www.ice.gov/sevis/contact.htm>. This address may be different from the address indicated on the I-515A form) to meet the Form I-94 expiration deadline. This will allow the nonimmigrant to avoid termination of the SEVIS record and the need to file with USCIS for reinstatement.

After Form I-515A adjudication, SEVP sends a notice to the I-Center advisor. If SEVP approves the nonimmigrant's continued admission, SEVP returns the Form I-20/DS-2019 and a cover letter to the I-Center advisor. Additionally, SEVP amends the submitted Form I-94 or issues a new one for the normal duration of status.

If SEVP does not receive the required documentation by the Form I-94 expiration date, the nonimmigrant's SEVIS record status will terminate on the next day. The International Center will then be informed of this termination.

Consequences of not completing the necessary Form I-515A paperwork

At the end of the 30-day response period, the student/scholar has two choices if the nonimmigrant has not complied with the Form I-515A:

- Depart the United States immediately, apply for a new visa for re-entry. You will also need a new I-20/DS-2019. You will need to re-enter as an initial student if in F-1 status and will therefore lose any accrued time towards OPT/CPT eligibility.
- File immediately for reinstatement with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

In either case the assistance that the Bechtel International Center can provide is limited. We cannot intercede with USCIS or SEVP to place you back in status.