

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.306, Comparative Medicine; 93.333, Clinical Research, 93.306, 93.333, 93.337, 93.393–93.396, 93.837–93.844, 93.846–93.878, 93.892, 93.893, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: July 3, 2024.

Lauren A. Fleck,

Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 2024–15108 Filed 7–9–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Center for Scientific Review; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 1009 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of the following meeting.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Member Conflict: Epidemiology.

Date: August 1, 2024.

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Virtual Meeting).

Contact Person: Lisa Steele, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 3139, MSC 7770, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 257–2638, steeleln@csr.nih.gov.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.306, Comparative Medicine; 93.333, Clinical Research, 93.306, 93.333, 93.337, 93.393–93.396, 93.837–93.844, 93.846–93.878, 93.892, 93.893, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: July 5, 2024.

Lauren A. Fleck,

Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 2024–15132 Filed 7–9–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

[Docket No. ICEB–2024–0007]

RIN 1653–ZA51

Employment Authorization for Yemeni F–1 Nonimmigrant Students Experiencing Severe Economic Hardship as a Direct Result of the Current Crisis in Yemen

AGENCY: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is suspending certain regulatory requirements for F–1 nonimmigrant students from Yemen who are experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the current crisis in Yemen. The Secretary is providing relief to these students who are in lawful F–1 nonimmigrant status, so the students may request employment authorization, work an increased number of hours while school is in session, and reduce their course load while continuing to maintain their F–1 nonimmigrant status.

DATES: This action covers eligible Yemeni F–1 nonimmigrant students beginning on September 4, 2024, and ending on March 3, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon Snyder, Unit Chief, Policy and Response Unit, Student and Exchange Visitor Program, MS 5600, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20536–5600; email: sevp@ice.dhs.gov, telephone: (703) 603–3400. This is not a toll-free number. Program information can be found at <https://www.ice.gov/sevis/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

What action is DHS taking under this notice?

The Secretary is exercising authority under 8 CFR 214.2(f)(9) to temporarily suspend the applicability of certain requirements governing on-campus and off-campus employment for F–1 nonimmigrant students whose country of citizenship is Yemen regardless of country of birth (or individuals having no nationality who last habitually resided in Yemen), who are present in the United States in lawful F–1 nonimmigrant student status on the date of publication of this notice, and who are experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the current

crisis in Yemen. The original notice, which applied to F–1 nonimmigrant students who met certain criteria, including having been lawfully present in the United States in F–1 nonimmigrant status on September 4, 2021, was effective from September 4, 2021, through March 3, 2023. See 86 FR 36288 (July 9, 2021). Most recently, DHS issued a notice which applied to F–1 nonimmigrant students who met certain criteria, including having been lawfully present in the United States in F–1 nonimmigrant status on January 3, 2023, that was effective from March 4, 2023, through September 3, 2024. See 88 FR 88 (Jan. 3, 2023). Effective with this publication, suspension of the employment limitations is available through March 3, 2026, for those who are in lawful F–1 nonimmigrant status on the date of publication of this notice. DHS will deem an F–1 nonimmigrant student granted employment authorization through this notice to be engaged in a “full course of study” for the duration of the employment authorization, if the student satisfies the minimum course load set forth in this notice.¹ See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(i)(F).

Who is covered by this notice?

This notice applies exclusively to F–1 nonimmigrant students who meet all of the following conditions:

- (1) Are a citizen of Yemen regardless of country of birth (or an individual having no nationality who last habitually resided in Yemen);
- (2) Were lawfully present in the United States on the date of publication of this notice in F–1 nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(F)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(F)(i);
- (3) Are enrolled in an academic institution that is Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)-certified for enrollment for F–1 nonimmigrant students;
- (4) Are currently maintaining F–1 nonimmigrant status; and
- (5) Are experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the current crisis in Yemen.

This notice applies to F–1 nonimmigrant students in an approved private school in kindergarten through

¹ Because the suspension of requirements under this notice applies throughout an academic term during which the suspension is in effect, DHS considers an F–1 nonimmigrant student who engages in a reduced course load or employment (or both) after this notice is effective to be engaging in a “full course of study,” see 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6), and eligible for employment authorization, through the end of any academic term for which such student is matriculated as of March 3, 2026, provided the student satisfies the minimum course load requirements in this notice.

grade 12, public school grades 9 through 12, and undergraduate and graduate education. An F–1 nonimmigrant student covered by this notice who transfers to another SEVP-certified academic institution remains eligible for the relief provided by means of this notice.

Why is DHS taking this action?

DHS is taking action to provide relief to Yemeni F–1 nonimmigrant students experiencing severe economic hardship due to the current crisis in Yemen. Based on its review of country conditions in Yemen and input received from the U.S. Department of State (DOS), DHS is taking action to allow eligible F–1 nonimmigrant students from Yemen to request employment authorization, work an increased number of hours while school is in session, and reduce their course load while continuing to maintain F–1 nonimmigrant student status.

The humanitarian situation in Yemen has worsened considerably in the last 18 months. Thousands of civilians have reportedly been killed or injured due to armed conflict between Houthi forces and forces loyal to the internationally recognized government since the United Nations (UN)-supported truce between the parties expired in October 2022.² Additionally, the presence of consistent armed conflict has led to the displacement of a large number of civilians, worsening an already grim humanitarian situation.³ The heightened security concerns, deteriorating humanitarian conditions, unstable economy, and other emergent circumstances have adversely affected much of the Yemeni population.

Security Concerns

Tactics used over the course of the conflict by the Houthi forces, the Saudi-led coalition backing the internationally recognized government,⁴ and domestic and international terrorist organizations operating inside of Yemen have put civilians at significant risk from conflict-related externalities following

the UN-supported truce in 2022.⁵ Explosive remnants of war, which consist of unexploded ordinances, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and landmines, pose a lasting threat to civilians in Yemen.⁶

The DOS estimated that, as of April 2021, “Houthi forces [have] laid over one million landmines and IEDs across the country.”⁷ Experts have warned that landmines, which are largely unmapped, will pose a threat to human life for decades, even if a peace deal is reached between the warring parties.⁸ As of 2023, there is evidence that Houthis had continued to spread landmines across infrastructure areas, water sources, and farmlands.⁹ The group has also refused to share maps of landmines with mine removal authorities, making survival all the more difficult for the civilian populations in the affected areas.¹⁰

Humanitarian Concerns

The UN considers the humanitarian crisis in Yemen to be the largest in the world, with an estimated 24 million people (or close to 80 percent of the population) needing assistance.¹¹ In February 2024, the World Food Program (WFP) estimated the number of food insecure people was approximately 17 million, and that 18.6 million individuals will need humanitarian assistance in 2024.¹² Additionally, 2.2 million children between 6 to 59 months are under threat of acute malnutrition.¹³ The United Nations

High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has stated that internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Yemen are “four times more likely to go hungry than the rest of the population” and that “62 percent of internally displaced families in Yemen have had to cut back on food.”¹⁴ Moreover, a recent UN Food and Agriculture Organization report warned that “[i]ncreased military activities in the Red Sea carries the risk of destruction of critical infrastructure, including ports and storage facilities. This can hamper the efficient distribution and storage of food in Yemen, further worsening food insecurity.”¹⁵ The WFP further announced in December 2023 that it would begin a “pause in general food distributions in areas under the control of the Sana’a-based authorities, due to limited funding and no agreement with the authorities on a smaller programme.”¹⁶ The latest development increases the likelihood that food insecurity will remain a major concern across Yemen for the foreseeable future.

According to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Yemen’s “current water network reaches less than 30 percent of the Yemeni population,” leaving a majority of Yemenis to depend on alternate means of obtaining water.¹⁷ The ICRC reported that approximately 17.8 million people in Yemen (approximately 56 percent of the population) do not currently have access to clean water and sanitation.¹⁸ In December 2023, Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported that the parties to the Yemeni conflict have had a direct negative impact on civilian’s access to water.¹⁹ HRW also reports that “[t]he Houthis have weaponized water in

WFP-0000141295/download/ (last visited June 13, 2024).

¹⁴ Get to know Fattoum, a displaced Yemeni mother who struggles to take care of her orphaned children., UNHCR, Apr. 22, 2022, available at <https://zakat.unhcr.org/blog/en/beneficiaries/fattoum> (last visited June 13, 2024).

¹⁵ Potential Impacts of Red Sea Crisis Escalation on Food Insecurity in Yemen, UNFOA, Feb. 28, 2024, available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/special-technical-paper-potential-impacts-red-sea-crisis-escalation-food-insecurity-yemen-issued-28th-february-2024> (last visited June 13, 2024).

¹⁶ Emergency, Yemen, World Food Program, Feb. 2024, available at <https://www.wfp.org/emergencies/yemen-emergency> (last visited June 13, 2024).

¹⁷ The Water Situation in Yemen, ICRC, June 5, 2022, available at <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/water-situation-yemen> (last visited June 13, 2024).

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ Yemen: Warring Parties Deepen Water Crisis, Human Rights Watch, Dec. 11, 2023, available at <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/12/11/yemen-warring-parties-deepen-water-crisis#> (last visited June 13, 2024).

⁵ World Report—Yemen, Human Rights Watch 2023 World Report, available at <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/yemen/> (last visited June 13, 2024).

⁶ Yemen: Explosive remnants of war the biggest killer of children since truce began, Save the Children, June 30, 2022, available at <https://www.savethechildren.net/news/yemen-explosive-remnants-war-biggest-killed-children-truce-began> (last visited June 13, 2024).

⁷ Daniel Gurley, Small Steps Have a Big Impact for Yemeni Civilians, Department of State Dipnote: Military and Security, Apr. 6, 2021, available at <https://www.state.gov/dipnote-u-s-department-of-state-official-blog/small-steps-have-a-big-impact-for-yemeni-civilians/> (last visited June 13, 2024).

⁸ Land mines will be hidden killer in Yemen decades after war, AP, Dec. 24, 2018, available at <https://www.apnews.com/bce0a80324d040f09843ceb3e4e45c1e> (last visited June 13, 2024).

⁹ World Report—Yemen, Human Rights Watch 2024 World Report, available at <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/yemen> (last visited June 13, 2024).

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ The United Nations in Yemen, available at <https://yemen.un.org/en/about/about-the-un> (last visited June 13, 2024).

¹² Emergency, Yemen, World Food Program, Feb. 2024, available at <https://www.wfp.org/emergencies/yemen-emergency> (last visited June 13, 2024).

¹³ Yemen—World Food Programme, June 2022, available at <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/>

² Yemen, Global Center for the Responsibility to Protect, May 31, 2024, available at <https://www.globalr2p.org/countries/yemen/> (last visited June 13, 2024).

³ Yemen—Complex Emergency Fact Sheet #5, Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, Apr. 5, 2024, pp. 5–6, available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/yemen-complex-emergency-fact-sheet-5-fiscal-year-fy-2024> (last visited June 13, 2024).

⁴ Daniel L. Byman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates Have a Disastrous Yemen Strategy, Brookings Institution, July 17, 2018, available at <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2018/07/17/saudi-arabia-and-the-united-arab-emirates-have-a-disastrous-yemen-strategy> (last visited June 13, 2024).

Taizz by blocking water in the two basins under their control from flowing into government-controlled Taizz city.”²⁰

In 2023, UNHCR recorded approximately 77,000 Yemeni refugees and asylum-seekers in neighboring countries,²¹ and over 4.5 million IDPs within Yemen.²² The number of IDPs represents approximately 13 percent of the population.²³ In 2023, the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund reported that “among the 19,943 newly registered displaced people, 88 percent were displaced due to conflict, while 12 percent were displaced by torrential rains and flooding.”²⁴ As of 2022, there were approximately 2 million IDPs that were children, which represented approximately half of the IDP population in Yemen at the time.²⁵ As of 2024, the situation of IDPs had not improved.²⁶

Economic Concerns

The World Bank reported that in Yemen, as of April 14, 2022, “[e]conomic conditions continue to deteriorate, and the acute humanitarian crisis persists.”²⁷ Official statistics about the status of Yemen’s economy are no longer being produced making it difficult to obtain reliable economic information.²⁸ Available data indicates

²⁰ Death is More Merciful Than This Life, Human Rights Watch, Dec. 11, 2023, available at <https://www.hrw.org/report/2023/12/11/death-more-merciful-life/houthi-and-yemeni-government-violations-right-water> (last visited June 13, 2024).

²¹ Refugee Data Finder, The UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, available at <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download/?url=So83fZ> (last visited June 13, 2024).

²² Yemen Humanitarian Needs Overview, OCHA, January 2024, p. 15, available at <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/yemen/yemen-humanitarian-needs-overview-2024-january-2024> (last visited June 13, 2024).

²³ Yemen-Complex Emergency, Fact Sheet #4, FY 2023, USAID, Feb. 10, 2023, available at https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-02/2023-02-10_USG_Yemen_Complex_Emergency_Fact_Sheet_4.pdf (last visited June 13, 2024).

²⁴ Humanitarian Situation Report No. 3, Dec. 11, 2023, UNICEF, p. 6, available at <https://www.unicef.org/documents/yemen-humanitarian-situation-report-no-3-30-september-2023> (last visited June 13, 2024).

²⁵ Migration and Displacement Country Profiles, Yemen, 2022, available at <https://data.unicef.org/resources/migration-and-displacement-country-profiles-mdcp/> (last visited June 13, 2024).

²⁶ Yemen—Complex Emergency, Fact Sheet #5 FY 2024, USAID, Apr. 5, 2024, available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/yemen-complex-emergency-fact-sheet-5-fiscal-year-fy-2024> (last visited June 13, 2024).

²⁷ Republic of Yemen, World Bank Economic Update, Apr. 14, 2022, available at <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/de816119d04a4e82a9c380bfd02dbc3a-0280012022/original/mpo-sm22-yemen-yem-kcm.pdf> (last visited June 13, 2024).

²⁸ *Id.*

an economy that continues to weaken.²⁹ Yemen’s economy was primarily an informal economy with remittances from abroad and foreign aid being the two primary sources of funding³⁰ for essential commodities.³¹ As of early 2024, over 90 percent of the food in Yemen was imported,³² and the Russian invasion of Ukraine and associated sanctions are expected to negatively impact the importation of key commodities, like oil and food, to Yemen.³³ Additionally, recent “disruptions in oil exports due to Houthi attacks on ports have caused the [Yemeni] Rial to drop.”³⁴

As of June 10, 2024, 255 F–1 nonimmigrant students from Yemen are enrolled at SEVP-certified academic institutions in the United States. Given the extent of the current crisis in Yemen, affected students whose primary means of financial support comes from Yemen may need to be exempt from the normal student employment requirements to continue their studies in the United States. The current crisis has made it unfeasible for many students to safely return to Yemen for the foreseeable future. Without employment authorization, these students may lack the means to meet basic living expenses.

What is the minimum course load requirement to maintain valid F–1 nonimmigrant status under this notice?

Undergraduate F–1 nonimmigrant students who receive on-campus or off-campus employment authorization under this notice must remain registered for a minimum of six semester or quarter hours of instruction per academic term. Undergraduate F–1

²⁹ Yemen Country Economic Memorandum: Glimmers of Hope in Dark Times, The World Bank, May 30, 2023, at xvi, available at <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099050923091537357/pdf/P17826203eb7ac0030b5540af4456d0dd7c.pdf> (last visited June 13, 2024).

³⁰ *Id.*

³¹ Yemen—Comple, Fact Sheet #6 FY 2024, USAID, May 7, 2024, p. 4, available at https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/2024-05-07_USG_Yemen_Complex_Emergency_Fact_Sheet_6.pdf (last visited June 13, 2024).

³² Yemen: Conflict, Maritime Attacks, and U.S. Policy, Congressional Research Services, Feb. 26, 2024, available at <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF12581> (last visited June 13, 2024).

³³ Republic of Yemen, World Bank Economic Update, Apr. 14, 2022, available at <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/de816119d04a4e82a9c380bfd02dbc3a-0280012022/original/mpo-sm22-yemen-yem-kcm.pdf> (last visited June 13, 2024).

³⁴ Yemen Central Bank Acts to Stop Currency Collapse, Money Laundering, Asharq Al-Awsat News, Feb. 14, 2024, available at <https://english.aawsat.com/arab-world/4853331-yemen-central-bank-acts-stop-currency-collapse-money-laundering> (last visited June 13, 2024).

nonimmigrant students enrolled in a term of different duration must register for at least one half of the credit hours normally required under a “full course of study.” See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(i)(B) and (F). A graduate-level F–1 nonimmigrant student who receives on-campus or off-campus employment authorization under this notice must remain registered for a minimum of three semester or quarter hours of instruction per academic term. See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(5)(v). Nothing in this notice affects the applicability of other minimum course load requirements set by the academic institution.

In addition, an F–1 nonimmigrant student (either undergraduate or graduate) granted on-campus or off-campus employment authorization under this notice may count up to the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter of online or distance education toward satisfying this minimum course load requirement, unless their course of study is in an English language study program. See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(i)(G). An F–1 nonimmigrant student attending an approved private school in kindergarten through grade 12 or public school in grades 9 through 12 must maintain “class attendance for not less than the minimum number of hours a week prescribed by the school for normal progress toward graduation,” as required under 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(i)(E). Nothing in this notice affects the applicability of federal and state labor laws limiting the employment of minors.

May an eligible F–1 nonimmigrant student who already has on-campus or off-campus employment authorization benefit from the suspension of regulatory requirements under this notice?

Yes. An F–1 nonimmigrant student who is a Yemeni citizen, regardless of country of birth (or an individual having no nationality who last habitually resided in Yemen), who already has on-campus or off-campus employment authorization and is otherwise eligible may benefit under this notice, which suspends certain regulatory requirements relating to the minimum course load requirement under 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(i) and certain employment eligibility requirements under 8 CFR 214.2(f)(9). Such an eligible F–1 nonimmigrant student may benefit without having to apply for a new Form I–766, Employment Authorization Document (EAD). To benefit from this notice, the F–1 nonimmigrant student must request that their designated school official (DSO) enter the following

statement in the remarks field of the student's Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) record, which the student's Form I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Student Status, will reflect:

Approved for more than 20 hours per week of [DSO must insert "on-campus" or "off-campus," depending upon the type of employment authorization the student already has] employment authorization and reduced course load under the Special Student Relief authorization from [DSO must insert the beginning date of the notice or the beginning date of the student's employment, whichever date is later] until [DSO must insert either the student's program end date, the current EAD expiration date (if the student is currently authorized for off-campus employment), or the end date of this notice, whichever date comes first].³⁵

Must the F-1 nonimmigrant student apply for reinstatement after expiration of this special employment authorization if the student reduces his or her "full course of study"?

No. DHS will deem an F-1 nonimmigrant student who receives and complies with the employment authorization permitted under this notice to be engaged in a "full course of study"³⁶ for the duration of the student's employment authorization, provided that a qualifying undergraduate level F-1 nonimmigrant student remains registered for a minimum of six semester or quarter hours of instruction per academic term, and a qualifying graduate level F-1 nonimmigrant student remains registered for a minimum of three semester or quarter hours of instruction per academic term. See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(5)(v) and (f)(6)(i)(F). Undergraduate F-1 nonimmigrant students enrolled in a term of different duration must register for at least one half of the credit hours normally required under a "full course of study." See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(i)(B) and (F). DHS will not require such students to apply for reinstatement under 8 CFR 214.2(f)(16) if they are otherwise maintaining F-1 nonimmigrant status.

³⁵ Because the suspension of requirements under this notice applies throughout an academic term during which the suspension is in effect, DHS considers an F-1 nonimmigrant student who engages in a reduced course load or employment (or both) after this notice is effective to be engaging in a "full course of study," see 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6), and eligible for employment authorization, through the end of any academic term for which such student is matriculated as of March 3, 2026, provided the student satisfies the minimum course load requirements in this notice.

³⁶ See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6).

Will an F-2 dependent (spouse or minor child) of an F-1 nonimmigrant student covered by this notice be eligible for employment authorization?

No. An F-2 spouse or minor child of an F-1 nonimmigrant student is not authorized to work in the United States and, therefore, may not accept employment while in F-2 nonimmigrant status, consistent with 8 CFR 214.2(f)(15)(i).

Will the suspension of the applicability of the standard student employment requirements apply to an individual who receives an initial F-1 visa and makes an initial entry into the United States after the effective date of this notice in the Federal Register?

No. The suspension of the applicability of the standard regulatory requirements only applies to certain F-1 nonimmigrant students who meet the following conditions:

(1) Are a citizen of Yemen regardless of country of birth (or an individual having no nationality who last habitually resided in Yemen);

(2) Were lawfully present in the United States on the date of publication of this notice in F-1 nonimmigrant status, under section 101(a)(15)(F)(i) of the INA, 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(F)(i);

(3) Are enrolled in an academic institution that is SEVP-certified for enrollment of F-1 nonimmigrant students;

(4) Are maintaining F-1 nonimmigrant status; and

(5) Are experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the current crisis in Yemen.

An F-1 nonimmigrant student who does not meet all these requirements is ineligible for the suspension of the applicability of the standard regulatory requirements (even if experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the current crisis in Yemen).

Does this notice apply to a continuing F-1 nonimmigrant student who departs the United States after the effective date of this notice in the Federal Register and who needs to obtain a new F-1 visa before returning to the United States to continue an educational program?

Yes. This notice applies to such an F-1 nonimmigrant student, but only if the DSO has properly notated the student's SEVIS record, which will then appear on the student's Form I-20. The normal rules for visa issuance remain applicable to a nonimmigrant who needs to apply for a new F-1 visa to continue an educational program in the United States.

Does this notice apply to elementary school, middle school, and high school students in F-1 status?

Yes. However, this notice does not by itself reduce the required course load for F-1 nonimmigrant students from Yemen enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12 at a private school, or grades 9 through 12 at a public high school. Such students must maintain the minimum number of hours of class attendance per week prescribed by the academic institution for normal progress toward graduation, as required under 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(i)(E). The suspension of certain regulatory requirements related to employment through this notice is applicable to all eligible F-1 nonimmigrant students regardless of educational level. Eligible F-1 nonimmigrant students from Yemen enrolled in an elementary school, middle school, or high school may benefit from the suspension of the requirement in 8 CFR 214.2(f)(9)(i) that limits on-campus employment to 20 hours per week while school is in session.

On-Campus Employment Authorization Will an F-1 nonimmigrant student who receives on-campus employment authorization under this notice be authorized to work more than 20 hours per week while school is in session?

Yes. For an F-1 nonimmigrant student covered in this notice, the Secretary is suspending the applicability of the requirement in 8 CFR 214.2(f)(9)(i) that limits an F-1 nonimmigrant student's on-campus employment to 20 hours per week while school is in session. An eligible F-1 nonimmigrant student has authorization to work more than 20 hours per week while school is in session if the DSO has entered the following statement in the remarks field of the student's SEVIS record, which will be reflected on the student's Form I-20:

Approved for more than 20 hours per week of on-campus employment and reduced course load, under the Special Student Relief authorization from [DSO must insert the beginning date of this notice or the beginning date of the student's employment, whichever date is later] until [DSO must insert the student's program end date or the end date of this notice, whichever date comes first].³⁷

³⁷ Because the suspension of requirements under this notice applies throughout an academic term during which the suspension is in effect, DHS considers an F-1 nonimmigrant student who engages in a reduced course load or employment (or both) after this notice is effective to be engaging in a "full course of study," see 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6), and eligible for employment authorization, through the end of any academic term for which such student is matriculated as of March 3, 2026, provided the

To obtain on-campus employment authorization, the F-1 nonimmigrant student must demonstrate to the DSO that the employment is necessary to avoid severe economic hardship directly resulting from the current crisis in Yemen. An F-1 nonimmigrant student authorized by the DSO to engage in on-campus employment by means of this notice does not need to file any applications with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The standard rules permitting full-time on-campus employment when school is not in session or during school vacations apply, as described in 8 CFR 214.2(f)(9)(i).

Will an F-1 nonimmigrant student who receives on-campus employment authorization under this notice have authorization to reduce the normal course load and still maintain his or her F-1 nonimmigrant student status?

Yes. DHS will deem an F-1 nonimmigrant student who receives on-campus employment authorization under this notice to be engaged in a “full course of study”³⁸ for the purpose of maintaining their F-1 nonimmigrant student status for the duration of the on-campus employment, if the student satisfies the minimum course load requirement described in this notice, consistent with 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(i)(F). However, the authorization to reduce the normal course load is solely for DHS purposes of determining valid F-1 nonimmigrant student status. Nothing in this notice mandates that school officials allow an F-1 nonimmigrant student to take a reduced course load if the reduction would not meet the academic institution’s minimum course load requirement for continued enrollment.³⁹

Off-Campus Employment Authorization

What regulatory requirements does this notice temporarily suspend relating to off-campus employment?

For an F-1 nonimmigrant student covered by this notice, as provided under 8 CFR 214.2(f)(9)(ii)(A), the Secretary is suspending the following regulatory requirements relating to off-campus employment:

(a) The requirement that a student must have been in F-1 nonimmigrant student status for one full academic year

student satisfies the minimum course load requirements in this notice.

³⁸ See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6).

³⁹ Minimum course load requirement for enrollment in a school must be established in a publicly available document (e.g., catalog, website, or operating procedure), and it must be a standard applicable to all students (U.S. citizens and foreign students) enrolled at the school.

to be eligible for off-campus employment;

(b) The requirement that an F-1 nonimmigrant student must demonstrate that acceptance of employment will not interfere with the student’s carrying a full course of study;

(c) The requirement that limits an F-1 nonimmigrant student’s employment authorization to no more than 20 hours per week of off-campus employment while the school is in session; and

(d) The requirement that the student demonstrate that employment under 8 CFR 214.2(f)(9)(i) is unavailable or otherwise insufficient to meet the needs that have arisen as a result of the unforeseen circumstances.

Will an F-1 nonimmigrant student who receives off-campus employment authorization under this notice have authorization to reduce the normal course load and still maintain F-1 nonimmigrant status?

Yes. DHS will deem an F-1 nonimmigrant student who receives off-campus employment authorization by means of this notice to be engaged in a “full course of study”⁴⁰ for the purpose of maintaining F-1 nonimmigrant student status for the duration of the student’s employment authorization if the student satisfies the minimum course load requirement described in this notice, consistent with 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(i)(F). The authorization for a reduced course load is solely for DHS purposes of determining valid F-1 nonimmigrant student status. Nothing in this notice mandates that school officials allow an F-1 nonimmigrant student to take a reduced course load if such reduced course load would not meet the school’s minimum course load requirement.⁴¹

How may an eligible F-1 nonimmigrant student obtain employment authorization for off-campus employment with a reduced course load under this notice?

An F-1 nonimmigrant student must file a Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, with USCIS to apply for off-campus employment authorization based on severe economic hardship directly resulting from the current crisis in Yemen.⁴² Filing

⁴⁰ See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6).

⁴¹ Minimum course load requirement for enrollment in a school must be established in a publicly available document (e.g., catalog, website, or operating procedure), and it must be a standard applicable to all students (U.S. citizens and foreign students) enrolled at the school.

⁴² See 8 CFR 274a.12(c)(3)(iii).

instructions are located at <https://www.uscis.gov/i-765>.

Fee considerations. Submission of a Form I-765 currently requires payment of a \$520 fee. An applicant who is unable to pay the fee may submit a completed Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver, along with the Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization. See <https://www.uscis.gov/i-912>. The submission must include an explanation about why USCIS should grant the fee waiver and the reason(s) for the inability to pay, and any evidence to support the reason(s). See 8 CFR 106.2 and 106.3.

Supporting documentation. An F-1 nonimmigrant student seeking off-campus employment authorization due to severe economic hardship must demonstrate the following to their DSO:

(1) This employment is necessary to avoid severe economic hardship; and

(2) The hardship is a direct result of the current crisis in Yemen.

If the DSO agrees that the F-1 nonimmigrant student is entitled to receive such employment authorization, the DSO must recommend application approval to USCIS by entering the following statement in the remarks field of the student’s SEVIS record, which will then appear on that student’s Form I-20:

Recommended for off-campus employment authorization in excess of 20 hours per week and reduced course load under the Special Student Relief authorization from the date of the USCIS authorization noted on Form I-766 until [DSO must insert the program end date or the end date of this notice, whichever date comes first].⁴³

The F-1 nonimmigrant student must then file the properly endorsed Form I-20 and Form I-765 according to the instructions for the Form I-765. The F-1 nonimmigrant student may begin working off campus only upon receipt of the EAD from USCIS.

DSO recommendation. In making a recommendation that an F-1 nonimmigrant student be approved for Special Student Relief, the DSO certifies that:

(a) The F-1 nonimmigrant student is in good academic standing and is carrying a “full course of study”⁴⁴ at the

⁴³ Because the suspension of requirements under this notice applies throughout an academic term during which the suspension is in effect, DHS considers an F-1 nonimmigrant student who engages in a reduced course load or employment (or both) after this notice is effective to be engaging in a “full course of study,” see 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6), and eligible for employment authorization, through the end of any academic term for which such student is matriculated as of March 3, 2026, provided the student satisfies the minimum course load requirements in this notice.

⁴⁴ See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6).

time of the request for employment authorization;

(b) The F-1 nonimmigrant student is a citizen of Yemen, regardless of country of birth (or an individual having no nationality who last habitually resided in Yemen), and is experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the current crisis in Yemen, as documented on the Form I-20;

(c) The F-1 nonimmigrant student has confirmed that the student will comply with the reduced course load requirements of this notice and register for the duration of the authorized employment for a minimum of six semester or quarter hours of instruction per academic term if at the undergraduate level, or for a minimum of three semester or quarter hours of instruction per academic term if the student is at the graduate level;⁴⁵ and

(d) The off-campus employment is necessary to alleviate severe economic hardship to the individual as a direct result of the current crisis in Yemen.

Processing. To facilitate prompt adjudication of the student's application for off-campus employment authorization under 8 CFR 214.2(f)(9)(ii)(C), the F-1 nonimmigrant student should do both of the following:

(a) Ensure that the application package includes the following documents:

- (1) A completed Form I-765 with all applicable supporting evidence;
- (2) The required fee or properly documented fee waiver request as defined in 8 CFR 106.2 and 106.3; and
- (3) A signed and dated copy of the student's Form I-20 with the appropriate DSO recommendation, as previously described in this notice; and

(b) Send the application in an envelope which is clearly marked on the front of the envelope, bottom right-hand side, with the phrase "SPECIAL STUDENT RELIEF."⁴⁶ Failure to include this notation may result in significant processing delays.

If USCIS approves the student's Form I-765, USCIS will send the student a Form I-766 EAD as evidence of employment authorization. The EAD will contain an expiration date that does not exceed the end of the granted temporary relief.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Considerations

Can an F-1 nonimmigrant student apply for TPS and for benefits under this notice at the same time?

Yes. An F-1 nonimmigrant student who has not yet applied for TPS or for other relief that reduces the student's course load per term and permits an increased number of work hours per week, such as Special Student Relief,⁴⁷ under this notice has two options.

Under the first option, the F-1 nonimmigrant student may apply for TPS according to the instructions in the USCIS notice designating Yemen for TPS elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**. All TPS applicants must file a Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, with the appropriate fee (or request a fee waiver). Although not required to do so, if F-1 nonimmigrant students want to obtain a new TPS-related EAD that is valid through March 3, 2026, and to be eligible for automatic EAD extensions that may be available to certain EADs with an A-12 or C-19 category code, they must file Form I-765 and pay the Form I-765 fee (or request a fee waiver). After receiving the TPS-related EAD, an F-1 nonimmigrant student may request that their DSO make the required entry in SEVIS and issue an updated Form I-20, which notes that the nonimmigrant student has been authorized to carry a reduced course load, as described in this notice. As long as the F-1 nonimmigrant student maintains the minimum course load described in this notice, does not otherwise violate their nonimmigrant status, including as provided under 8 CFR 214.1(g), and maintains TPS, then the student maintains F-1 status and TPS concurrently.

Under the second option, the F-1 nonimmigrant student may apply for an EAD under Special Student Relief by filing Form I-765 with the location specified in the filing instructions. At the same time, the F-1 nonimmigrant student may file a separate TPS application but must submit the Form I-821 according to the instructions provided in the **Federal Register** notice designating Yemen for TPS. If the F-1 nonimmigrant student has already applied for employment authorization under Special Student Relief, they are not required to submit the Form I-765 as part of the TPS application. However, some nonimmigrant students may wish to obtain a TPS-related EAD in light of

certain extensions that may be available to EADs with an A-12 or C-19 category code that are not available to the C-3 category under which Special Student Relief falls. The F-1 nonimmigrant student should check the appropriate box when filling out Form I-821 to indicate whether a TPS-related EAD is being requested. Again, as long as the F-1 nonimmigrant student maintains the minimum course load described in this notice and does not otherwise violate the student's nonimmigrant status, included as provided under 8 CFR 214.1(g), the nonimmigrant will be able to maintain compliance requirements for F-1 nonimmigrant student status while having TPS.

When a student applies simultaneously for TPS and benefits under this notice, what is the minimum course load requirement while an application for employment authorization is pending?

The F-1 nonimmigrant student must maintain normal course load requirements for a "full course of study"⁴⁸ unless or until the nonimmigrant student receives employment authorization under this notice. TPS-related employment authorization, by itself, does not authorize a nonimmigrant student to drop below twelve credit hours, or otherwise applicable minimum requirements (e.g., clock hours for non-traditional academic programs). Once approved for a TPS-related EAD and Special Student Relief employment authorization, as indicated by the DSO's required entry in SEVIS and issuance of an updated Form I-20, the F-1 nonimmigrant student may drop below twelve credit hours, or otherwise applicable minimum requirements (with a minimum of six semester or quarter hours of instruction per academic term if at the undergraduate level, or for a minimum of three semester or quarter hours of instruction per academic term if at the graduate level). See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(5)(v), (f)(6), and (f)(9)(i) and (ii).

How does a student who has received a TPS-related EAD then apply for authorization to take a reduced course load under this notice?

There is no further application process with USCIS if a student has been approved for a TPS-related EAD. The F-1 nonimmigrant student must demonstrate and provide documentation to the DSO of the direct economic hardship resulting from the current crisis in Yemen. The DSO will then verify and update the student's record in SEVIS to enable the F-1

⁴⁵ 8 CFR 214.2(f)(5)(v).

⁴⁶ Guidance for direct filing addresses can be found here: <https://www.uscis.gov/i-765-addresses>.

⁴⁷ See DHS Study in the States, Special Student Relief, available at <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students/special-student-relief> (last visited Feb. 28, 2024).

⁴⁸ See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6).

nonimmigrant student with TPS to reduce the course load without any further action or application. No other EAD needs to be issued for the F-1 nonimmigrant student to have employment authorization.

Can a noncitizen who has been granted TPS apply for reinstatement of F-1 nonimmigrant student status after the noncitizen's F-1 nonimmigrant student status has lapsed?

Yes. Regulations permit certain students who fall out of F-1 nonimmigrant student status to apply for reinstatement. See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(16). This provision may apply to students who worked on a TPS-related EAD or dropped their course load before publication of this notice, and therefore fell out of student status. These students must satisfy the criteria set forth in the F-1 nonimmigrant student status reinstatement regulations.

How long will this notice remain in effect?

This notice grants temporary relief until March 3, 2026,⁴⁹ to eligible F-1 nonimmigrant students. DHS will continue to monitor the situation in Yemen. Should the special provisions authorized by this notice need modification or extension, DHS will announce such changes in the **Federal Register**.

Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA)

An F-1 nonimmigrant student seeking off-campus employment authorization due to severe economic hardship resulting from the current crisis in Yemen must demonstrate to the DSO that this employment is necessary to avoid severe economic hardship. A DSO who agrees that a nonimmigrant student should receive such employment authorization must recommend an application approval to USCIS by entering information in the remarks field of the student's SEVIS record. The authority to collect this information is in the SEVIS collection of information currently approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control Number 1653-0038.

This notice also allows an eligible F-1 nonimmigrant student to request

⁴⁹ Because the suspension of requirements under this notice applies throughout an academic term during which the suspension is in effect, DHS considers an F-1 nonimmigrant student who engages in a reduced course load or employment (or both) after this notice is effective to be engaging in a "full course of study," see 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6), and eligible for employment authorization, through the end of any academic term for which such student is matriculated as of March 3, 2026, provided the student satisfies the minimum course load requirements in this notice.

employment authorization, work an increased number of hours while the academic institution is in session, and reduce their course load while continuing to maintain F-1 nonimmigrant student status.

To apply for employment authorization, certain F-1 nonimmigrant students must complete and submit a currently approved Form I-765 according to the instructions on the form. OMB has previously approved the collection of information contained on the current Form I-765, consistent with the PRA (OMB Control Number 1615-0040). Although there will be a slight increase in the number of Form I-765 filings because of this notice, the number of filings currently contained in the OMB annual inventory for Form I-765 is sufficient to cover the additional filings. Accordingly, there is no further action required under the PRA.

Alejandro Mayorkas,

Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

[FR Doc. 2024-15082 Filed 7-8-24; 11:15 am]

BILLING CODE 9111-97-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

[CIS No. 2774-24; DHS Docket No. USCIS-2015-0005]

RIN 1615-ZB76

Extension and Redesignation of Yemen for Temporary Protected Status

AGENCY: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

ACTION: Notice of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) extension and redesignation.

SUMMARY: Through this notice, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announces that the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary) is extending the designation of Yemen for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and redesignating Yemen for TPS for 18 months, beginning on September 4, 2024, and ending on March 3, 2026. This extension and redesignation allows Yemeni nationals (and individuals having no nationality who last habitually resided in Yemen) who have been continuously residing in the United States since July 2, 2024, and who have been continuously physically present in the United States since

September 4, 2024, to apply or re-register for TPS.

DATES: Extension and redesignation of designation of Yemen for TPS begins on September 4, 2024, and will remain in effect for 18 months. For registration instructions, see the Registration Information section below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

- You may contact Rená Cutlip-Mason, Chief, Humanitarian Affairs Division, Office of Policy and Strategy, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, by mail at 5900 Capital Gateway Drive, Camp Springs, MD 20746, or by phone at 240-721-3000.
- For more information on TPS, including guidance on the registration process and additional information on eligibility, please visit the USCIS TPS web page at <https://www.uscis.gov/tps>. You can find specific information about Yemen's TPS designation by selecting "Yemen" from the menu on the left side of the TPS web page.

- If you have additional questions about TPS, please visit <https://uscis.gov/tools>. Our online virtual assistant, Emma, can answer many of your questions and point you to additional information on our website. If you cannot find your answers there, you may also call our USCIS Contact Center at 800-375-5283 (TTY 800-767-1833).

- Applicants seeking information about the status of their individual cases may check Case Status Online, available on the USCIS website at uscis.gov, or visit the USCIS Contact Center at <https://www.uscis.gov/contactcenter>.

- You can also find more information at local USCIS offices after this notice is published.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Table of Abbreviations

BIA—Board of Immigration Appeals
 CFR—Code of Federal Regulations
 DHS—U.S. Department of Homeland Security
 DoS—U.S. Department of State
 EAD—Employment Authorization Document
 FNC—Final Nonconfirmation
 Form I-131—Application for Travel Document
 Form I-765—Application for Employment Authorization
 Form I-797—Notice of Action
 Form I-821—Application for Temporary Protected Status
 Form I-9—Employment Eligibility Verification
 Form I-912—Request for Fee Waiver
 Form I-94—Arrival/Departure Record
 FR—Federal Register
 Government—U.S. Government
 IER—U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Immigrant and Employee Rights Section