



IMMIGRATION UPDATE - AUGUST 01, 2022

Posted on August 1, 2022 by Cyrus Mehta

Headlines:

[USCIS Extends Certain COVID-19 Flexibilities](#) – U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is extending certain COVID-19-related flexibilities through October 23, 2022.

[DHS Extends and Redesignates Syria for TPS, Suspends Certain Requirements for Syrian F-1 Students](#) – DHS is extending the designation of Syria for temporary protected status (TPS) through March 31, 2024. DHS is also redesignating Syria for TPS. Also, effective October 1, 2022, until April 1, 2024, DHS is suspending certain regulatory requirements for F-1 nonimmigrant students whose country of citizenship is Syria.

[Some Parolees Can Now File Employment Authorization Applications Online](#) – Certain parolees can now file Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, online, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced.

[100,000 Ukrainians Admitted to United States in July](#) – According to reports, as part of what's being called the largest refugee exodus since World War II, more than 100,000 Ukrainians who fled the Russian invasion of their country have been admitted into the United States, mostly in temporary statuses.

[New STEM Resources Released](#) – Several entities have released new resources on research and options for noncitizens in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in the United States.

Details:

[Back to Top](#)

USCIS Extends Certain COVID-19 Flexibilities

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is extending certain COVID-19-related flexibilities through October 23, 2022. Under these flexibilities, USCIS considers a response received within 60 calendar days after the due date set forth in the following requests or notices before taking any action, if the request or notice was issued between March 1, 2020, and October 23, 2022, inclusive:

- Requests for Evidence
- Continuations to Request Evidence (N-14)
- Notices of Intent to Deny, Revoke, Rescind, Terminate (regional center), or Withdraw Temporary Protected Status
- Motions to Reopen an N-400 Pursuant to 8 CFR 335.5, Receipt of Derogatory Information After Grant

In addition, USCIS will consider a Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion, or a Form N-336, Request for a Hearing on a Decision in Naturalization Proceedings (Under Section 336 of the INA), if:

- The form was filed up to 90 calendar days from the issuance of a decision by USCIS; and
- USCIS made that decision between November 1, 2021, and October 23, 2022, inclusive.

USCIS also said it has been evaluating which flexibilities should be extended permanently. As a result of this evaluation, the reproduced signature flexibility announced in March 2020 became permanent policy on July 25, 2022. Under that policy, a document may be scanned, faxed, photocopied, or similarly reproduced provided that the copy is of an original document containing an original handwritten signature, unless otherwise specified. For forms that require an original "wet" signature, USCIS will accept electronically reproduced original signatures. Individuals or entities that submit documents bearing an electronically reproduced original signature must also retain copies of the original documents containing the "wet" signature, USCIS said. USCIS may request the original documents at any time, and failure to do so "could negatively impact the adjudication of the immigration benefit."

Details:

- "USCIS Extends COVID-19-Related Flexibilities," July 25, 2022, <https://bit.ly/3bjluXs>
- "USCIS Announces Flexibility in Submitting Required Signatures During COVID-19 National Emergency," March 20, 2020, <https://www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/uscis-announces-flexibility-in-submitting-required-signatures-during-covid-19-national-emergency>

[Back to Top](#)

DHS Extends and Redesignates Syria for TPS, Suspends Certain Requirements for Syrian F-1 Students

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced several measures to provide relief to Syrians in the United States, summarized below.

Temporary Protected Status Extended, Redesignated

DHS is extending the designation of Syria for temporary protected status (TPS) for 18 months, effective October 1, 2022, through March 31, 2024. DHS is also redesignating Syria for TPS.

Extension. The extension allows existing TPS beneficiaries to retain TPS through March 31, 2024, as long as they otherwise continue to meet the eligibility requirements. Existing TPS beneficiaries who wish to extend their status through March 31, 2024, must re-register during the 60-day re-registration period, which begins on the date of publication of the notice in the Federal Register. As of press time, the notice was expected to be published on August 1, 2022.

Redesignation. The redesignation of Syria allows additional Syrian nationals (and individuals having no nationality who last habitually resided in Syria) who have been continuously residing in the United States since July 28, 2022, to apply for TPS for the first time during the initial registration period. In addition to demonstrating continuous residence in the United States since July 28, 2022, and meeting other eligibility criteria, initial applicants for TPS under this designation must demonstrate that they have been continuously physically present in the United States since October 1, 2022.

DHS said the extension of TPS for Syria allows approximately 6,448 current beneficiaries to retain TPS through March 31, 2024, if they meet TPS eligibility requirements. Approximately 960 additional individuals may be eligible for TPS

under the redesignation, DHS noted.

Certain Requirements Suspended for Syrian F-1 Students

Effective October 1, 2022, until April 1, 2024, DHS is suspending certain regulatory requirements for F-1 nonimmigrant students whose country of citizenship is Syria, regardless of country of birth (or individuals having no nationality who last resided in Syria), and who are experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the civil war in Syria. Eligible Syrian 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 student status. DHS said it will deem an F-1 nonimmigrant student who receives employment authorization by means of the notice "to be engaged in a 'full course of study' for the duration of the employment authorization, if the nonimmigrant student satisfies the minimum course load requirement" as described in the notice.

Details:

- DHS TPS notice (advance copy), <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-08-01/pdf/2022-16508.pdf>
- DHS TPS announcement, <https://bit.ly/3Q6vcet>
- DHS F-1 student notice (advance copy), <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-08-01/pdf/2022-16469.pdf>

[Back to Top](#)

Some Parolees Can Now File Employment Authorization Applications Online

Certain parolees can now file Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, online, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced on July 28, 2022. Effective immediately, eligible individuals paroled into the United States for urgent humanitarian or significant public benefit purposes under INA § 212(d)(5) who are eligible to seek work authorization under category (c)(11) can file Form I-765 online, with limited exceptions.

Those seeking a waiver of the filing fee or who are eligible for a fee exemption must still file the I-765 by mail.

Details:

- USCIS alert, July 28, 2022,

<https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/parolees-can-now-file-form-i-765-online>

[Back to Top](#)

100,000 Ukrainians Admitted to United States in July

According to reports, as part of what's being called the largest refugee exodus since World War II, more than 100,000 Ukrainians who fled the Russian invasion of their country have been admitted into the United States, mostly in temporary statuses.

Included are approximately 47,000 on temporary visas, including tourist visas; 30,000 under the "Uniting for Ukraine" program, which includes humanitarian parole; and 22,000 paroled in at the U.S.-Mexico border. Five hundred entered the United States via the refugee system.

Details:

- U.S. Admits 100,000 Ukrainians in 5 Months, Fulfilling Biden Pledge," CBS News, July 29, 2022,
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/us-admits-100000-ukrainians-in-5-months-fulfilling-biden-pledge/>

[Back to Top](#)

New STEM Resources Released

Several entities have released new resources on research and options for noncitizens in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in the United States:

- S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has published resources to provide an overview of some of the temporary and permanent pathways for noncitizens to work in the United States in STEM fields. The materials also highlight some of the most important considerations for STEM professionals who want to work in the United States. New pages include "Options for Noncitizen STEM Professionals to Work in the United States," "Nonimmigrant Pathways for STEM Employment in the United States," and "Immigrant Pathways for STEM Employment in the United States."
<https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/new-stem-resources-available-on>

[-uscis-website](#)

- The American Immigration Council rolled out a new website with guides and frequently asked questions on the five international STEM talent policies announced in January 2022 by the Biden administration to enhance the ability of the United States to attract and retain international STEM talent. The website features five guides and FAQs (<https://info.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/stem-faqs/faqs.html>) and new research and links to other work (<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/foreign-born-stem-workers-united-states>)
- In a new policy brief, the National Foundation for American Policy has documented the role played by immigrants as founders and key personnel in many of the United States' most innovative companies. The research shows the importance of immigrants in cutting-edge companies and the U.S. economy at a time when U.S. immigration policies have pushed talent to other countries.
<https://nfap.com/research/new-nfap-policy-brief-immigrant-entrepreneurs-and-u-s-billion-dollar-companies/>

[Back to Top](#)