



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

CHANGE TO F-1 STATUS

General Information

A nonimmigrant with a C, D, K, M or who entered the United States on the Visa-Waiver Pilot Program cannot change to F-1 status in the United States. Also, those in J status subject to the two-year home residency requirement (212E) may not change status in the United States.

Changing your status in the United States gives you a new status, not a new visa. Visas are only used for entering the United States and can only be obtained outside of the United States at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

Application Procedure

A \$100.00 SEVIS fee must be paid before the change of status application is mailed. You will be given 2 numbers to pay the fee, your SEVIS I.D. number and the school code, after the change of status I-20 has been issued. Payment can be made online or by mail and you will need to bring the SEVIS fee receipt with you to mail with the other documents.

Bring the following to International Student Services (ISS):

- 1) completed Form I-539
- 2) I-20 for change of status, signed in #11 (will be provided by ISS)
- 3) Evidence of financial support that was provided to receive the I-20
- 4) copy of passport, visa and I-94 card
- 5) \$300 fee, check or money order made out to "US Citizenship and Immigration Services" or USCIS.
- 6) SEVIS fee receipt from \$100 payment

If you are changing status from F-2 to F-1, please also provide:

- 1) A copy of your SEVIS I-20 and the F-1's SEVIS I-20
- 2) A letter from the F-1's school to verify that they are still in status

Mail all materials listed to:

USCIS California Service Center
PO Box 10539
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-1053

- You should receive a receipt letter letting you know that USCIS has received your application.
- ***Everything will be mailed to you at the address listed on your form, so please be sure it is current.***
- Your change of status application typically takes 3-6 months to be processed.
- Once you receive your change of status, bring in your stamped I-20 and new I-94 card to International Student Services so a copy can be kept in your file.