

CHANGE OF STATUS

Eligibility

A person of any non-immigrant status except C, D, K, or M (and in some cases J), and except those who entered the United States under the terms of the Visa-Waiver Pilot Program, can apply for a change to F-1 status if s/he has maintained lawful non-immigrant status up to the time of application.

A person in J status may apply for a change of status only if they are not subject to the 2-year home country physical presence requirement, or if that requirement has been waived. A foreign medical graduate who acquired J status to receive graduate medical training may change to F-1 only if s/he has received a waiver of the home residency requirement based on fear of persecution or interest of U.S. government agency.

A person in F-2 status (spouse or dependent) wishing to engage in a degree seeking program or to study on a full-time basis must apply for a Change of Status and be granted the Change of Status prior to their enrollment into the University. F-2 spouses are permitted to engage in part-time "avocational or recreational" study only. F-2 children may attend full-time at the elementary and secondary level of schooling only.

Procedures

Gather the following information and complete all required forms:

- Complete the Form 1-539. Be sure to explain your answer to 3f in Part 4
NOTE: Form may be obtained at www.uscis.gov and click on immigration forms
- Make check or money order payable to the "Department of Homeland Security."
For the appropriate amount as designated on the 1539 form.
- Write a brief statement explaining why you did not originally enter the United States under the new visa status.
- 2 Copies of your passport (page with photo and expiration date), visa page and 1-94 Card
- 2 Copies of your waiver, if applicable
- 2 Copies of DS-2019 and 1-94 card of principal J-1 (if changing from J-1 to J-2)
- 2 Copies of 1-20 and 1-94 card of principal F-1 (if changing from F-1 to F-2)
- 2 Copies of Proof of family relationship to F-1 or J-1 principal (i.e. marriage license)
- Evidence of financial support (i.e. original bank statement and one copy)
- Proof of SEVIS fee payment. Information available at www.fmiffee.com Please bring along a Credit card to pay this once your immigration document for Change of Status has been Created by our office.
- Other _____

After you have gathered all the materials listed above set up an appointment to meet with the International Student Advisor (852-6602). Bring all of the materials with you AND your original passport and immigration documents.

3. The International Student Advisor will review the materials and ask you to sign the immigration document (1-20 or DS2019) if applicable to your change of status. All materials will be sent by the Center using regular mail to the Service Center in Vermont for adjudication. If your application is complete, the immigration office will mail you a receipt notice within 30 days. If your change of status is approved, immigration will mail you the new immigration document and a new 1-94 Card indicating your new status. The entire process may take up to four months for processing. You may NOT study until you have received an approval from immigration for the Change of Status.
4. After you receive approval, please stop by the International Center with your new immigration document and 1-94 card so that we may copy them for your file. The International Center will keep a complete copy of your application on file.