

Reinstatement to F-1 Status

Overview

An F-1 student who is "out of status" may apply for "reinstatement" to the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to regain F-1 status. As an alternative to reinstatement, a student may leave the United States and return on a new form I-20 marked for "initial attendance." Students should contact the Office of International Services to discuss and determine which option is best for reinstatement.

Please Note: *Except in extraordinary circumstances, USCIS will deny an application for reinstatement when the violation occurred more than five (5) months prior to the application.*

Checklist for Reinstatement

- Completed **Form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status** – completely filled out. Form I-539 can be downloaded from: <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-539.pdf>.
- Completed **Form G-1145, E-Notification of Application/Petition Acceptance**. Download Form G-1145 from the USCIS web-site: <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/g-1145.pdf>.
- Original, signed Form I-20 - marked *Reinstatement* (available from Office of International Services)
- Your original I-94 (and your dependent(s) if applicable)
- Photocopies of passport identification (biographical) page, and U.S. visa page from your passport
- Photocopies of all previous forms I-20, along with any Employment Authorization Cards (EAD)
- Proof of payment of the SEVIS fee (If you have been out of status for more than five months, you need to **pay the \$200 SEVIS Fee before you file for reinstatement.**) You can get more information about SEVIS payment from the following website: <https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/>.
- Current original financial guarantee documents (such as 6 months of bank statements, etc)
- Class schedule/registration showing current and/or intended classes for enrollment
- A written statement explaining:
 - a) Why the violation of status was beyond your control
 - b) That you are now pursuing (or will be pursuing) a full course of study
 - c) How you supported yourself without working while you were out of status
 - d) That you are not deportable
- Recommendation letter from Webster's Primary Designated School Official (PDSO)
- Check or money order in the amount of **\$290** made payable to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

If the reinstatement is approved, USCIS will endorse your form I-20 and return it to you. If the application is denied, you will be notified and required to leave the U.S. **Please bring or send** your Approval Notice from USCIS to International Services - so that we can make copy of this vital document to be kept in your file. It may take USCIS several months to process your reinstatement application.

Remember, while you may continue to study, you are not eligible for any benefits associated with F-1 status, such as employment on campus or practical training, while the reinstatement application is pending.