

# PROCEDURES FOR CHANGE OF STATUS

## F-1 STUDENT TO J-1 STUDENT

---

You may change your status if you are admitted to an academic program at the University of Illinois. You may change your status by application to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) or by travel and re-entry.

### **Requirements to change to J-1 status:**

1. You must be admitted to a full-time academic program at the University of Illinois.
2. Except in certain specific instances, you must be prepared to take a full load of courses (12 hours) each fall and spring semester while you are enrolled at the UIUC.
3. You must have a Form DS-2019 issued by the UIUC or your J-1 program sponsor.
4. If you are subject to a two-year home residency requirement from a previous status, you are not eligible to request a change of status from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. Instead, you must follow the travel and reentry procedure outlined in the last paragraph.

### **Change of status through U.S. Citizenship and Immigration**

**Services:** You may either assemble the documents listed below in the order that they appear, and send them to the USCIS by mail OR submit them via USCIS online filing system ELIS ([www.uscis.gov/uscis-elis](http://www.uscis.gov/uscis-elis))

1. Check or money order for \$370.00 (filing fee) and \$85.00 (biometric fee per applicant), payable to the "Department of Homeland Security".
2. Completed Form I-539. Include I-539A Supplemental Information for Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status, if you are including dependents in the application.
3. Original Form DS-2019 (sign the bottom of page 1). You must submit all parts of the DS-2019 with your application.
4. Your original I-94 card.
5. Photocopy of the identity and visa page from your passport, including passport expiration date.
6. A letter from you to the USCIS (To Whom It May Concern) containing:
  - a. Your address and telephone number
  - b. Your request to change status
  - c. A statement of the reason you are required to change status (eg. Your sponsor's funding requires you to hold a J-1 visa)
  - d. Your passport number and expiration date
  - e. A statement to indicate that 1) you understand that you may become subject to the two-year home residence requirement and 2) that your spouse may be unable to later change status to J-2 to stay with you (if applicable)
7. Documentation of financial support.
8. Proof of valid, current nonimmigrant status.

9. Copy of any I-797 Approval Notices changing or extending your status.
10. Copy of your SEVIS fee payment receipt.

Make an appointment with an ISSS advisor if you have questions about your application.

Before mailing your application, you must also pay the SEVIS (I-901) fee for the J-1 status. You can pay this one-time fee at [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com) or by submitting form I-901 with a check or money order drawn on a U.S. bank and payable in U.S. currency. You should include a copy of your SEVIS payment receipt with your application.

**It is recommended that you keep photocopies of all documents submitted to USCIS for your records. Mail all documents by *Certified Mail with a Return Receipt Requested* to the USCIS Dallas Lockbox facility:**

For US Postal Service:  
USCIS  
P.O. Box 660166  
Dallas, TX 75266

For Express mail and courier deliveries:  
USCIS  
ATTN: I-539  
2501 S. State Highway 121 Business  
Suite 400  
Lewisville, TX 75067

**Use a return address that will be current for several months.**

### **Change of status by leaving the United States and**

**reentering:** If you go abroad and reenter the U.S. using the new Form DS-2019, your approved re-entry will change your status. You must apply for a J-1 entry visa while you are outside the U.S. Please be aware that it may take several days, and even weeks, for your visa application to be processed and that you will be required to pay the SEVIS fee well in advance of applying for your new entry visa. The U.S. embassies will not process any visa applications without verification that the SEVIS fee has been paid. Furthermore, it might be difficult, if not impossible, to get an entry visa outside of your country of citizenship or permanent residence. Finally, please note that you are never guaranteed to get a new entry visa.

**Please be sure to stop by ISSS with your approval for change of status. We are required to keep current photocopies of your documents on file at ISSS.**