

## Change of Status: F-2 Dependent to F-1 Student

To change your status while in the United States from an F-2 dependent to an F-1 student, you will need to be admitted to a full-time academic program at a school that can issue you a Form I-20. In addition, your F-1 spouse must be in the United States and in status when you are requesting this change.

**Note:** If you are traveling outside the United States, you can accomplish the change of status upon reentry if you take your Form I-20 and financial documents with you and obtain an F-1 visa at a U.S. Consulate. Upon obtaining the F-1 visa, you can enter the United States as an F-1 student.

As an F-2 visa holder, you are not eligible to be a full-time student. However, you are able to take courses on a part-time basis. Therefore, if you wish to study full time, you must apply for a change of status from F-2 to F-1. F-2 visa holders also may not receive wages or compensation of any kind until the F-1 status is approved.

Your request for a change of status to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) should consist of the following:

- Completed Form I-539 with the processing fee. Checks and money orders should be made payable to the Department of Homeland Security. For the most current fee information, visit [uscis.gov](https://uscis.gov) and scroll down to “Forms and E-Filing” to find the appropriate fee.
- Receipt for paying SEVIS I-901 Fee. Go to [FMJfee.com](https://fmjfee.com) for full details.
- Copies of F-2 and F-1 form I-20s, signed and dated
- Copy of the front and back of the Form I-94 card or printed copy of electronic I-94 card and copy of admission stamp
- Financial verification
- Copies of your spouse’s valid Immigration forms: I-94, I-20
- Copies of the pages in each individual’s passport that include biographical information, passport picture and passport expiration

**Meet with an immigration coordinator in the Office of International Affairs to review the above documents.**

**Note:** If you have been offered an assistantship, please include and highlight in your letter: “Please grant expedite: Assistantship pending.” Also, write on bottom left corner of the envelope “Expedite: Assistantship pending.”