

California State University San Bernardino

Center for International Studies and Programs

Change of Status

There are two ways of gaining a new nonimmigrant status. You can leave the U.S., apply for a new visa at a U.S. consulate, and reenter the U.S. The other way is to stay in the U.S. and change your status through USCIS.

Leaving the country is usually faster than changing status in the U.S, and you will obtain the visa and the status. Some disadvantages of leaving the country are the possibility of visa processing delay and the expense of travel.

By staying in the U.S. you can continue with your classes (if you are eligible to take classes). There are some disadvantages, such as: slow processing time; you must stay in the U.S. during processing; and you must still obtain a visa stamp should you leave. This form gives instructions for changing status in the U.S.

Restrictions

- Individuals in J status who are subject to the two-year home-country residence requirement can change only to A or G status.
- Persons admitted under the Visa Waiver Program (marked "W/T" or "W/B" on the I-94) cannot change nonimmigrant status.
- Persons who hold C, D, or K status cannot change nonimmigrant status.
- A vocational student in M status cannot change to F status.
- Violated your current status, or your current status has expired

Documentation Needed

- Form I-539 "Application to Extend/Change Non-immigrant Status" <https://www.uscis.gov/i-539>
- Form I-539A for all dependents that will be changing status
- Check or money order made payable to "The Department of Homeland Security" in the amount of \$370
- Check or money order made payable to "The Department of Homeland Security" in the amount of \$85 for Biometrics fee (you will receive an interview date in the mail.)
- Pay the I-901 Fee, <https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/>, *attach receipt*
- Copy of new I-20, *issued by the Center for International Studies and Programs*
- Evidence of purpose in the U.S. (*Ex. Transcripts*)
- Original I-94
- Photocopies of current immigration status documents: visa stamp and passport ID pages
- Photocopies of financial support documents
- Letter from applicant
 - clearly explain your current status
 - your plans for study at CSUSB
 - your long-term plans
 - Keep in mind that F-1 status is a NON-IMMIGRANT classification. Make sure that you state why you would need to return to your country when you are done here.
- Dependent information (or primary information if you are the dependent) and proof of relationship

Mail all of the above items, return receipt requested, to:

Express Mail Address

USCIS

ATTN: I-539

2501 S. State Highway 121 Business, Ste 400
Lewisville, TX 75067

Post Office Address

USCIS

PO Box 660166

Dallas, TX 75266