



## ***Change of Immigration Status***

### **Office of International Affairs**

International Student and Scholar Services  
Student Success Center 0300 (lower level)  
Campus Box 1616 Edwardsville, IL 62026  
Email: [iss@siue.edu](mailto:iss@siue.edu)

### **F-2 to F-1**

#### **Considerations**

1. You and your primary F-1 visa holder must still be maintaining status on the date that you file the change of status application.
2. You are not eligible to enroll in a full-time program until the change of status application is approved. However, you are eligible to study part-time.
3. F-1 on-campus employment may not be authorized until the change of status has been approved by USCIS.
4. If your change of status is not approved by the program start date on your form I-20, you must contact your international student advisor to discuss deferral of the program start date.
5. Adjudication times vary. Check the most current estimates [here](#).
6. USCIS will notify you of their decision with Form I-797 Notice of Action. Please contact your international student advisor if you receive your I-797, a denial notice, requests for evidence, or any other updates to your application from USCIS.
7. Do not travel outside of the U.S. while your application is pending. If you leave the country, USCIS will consider your application abandoned.

#### **Procedure**

##### **A. Request a Change of Status I-20 from ISSS**

- 1) Make an appointment with your immigration advisor to discuss change of status application eligibility and procedures by emailing [iss@siue.edu](mailto:iss@siue.edu).
- 2) Request a new I-20 by completing the [Change of Status I-20 Request Form](#). New students must be fully admitted to SIUE and have submitted financial documents to International Admissions before ISSS can issue your I-20.

##### **B. Gather all materials for change of status application**

1. A completed Form [I-539](#). Indicate in Part 2 that the purpose of the form is a change of status.
2. [Form G-1145](#)
3. Checks or money orders payable to *the Department of Homeland Security* for the I-539 filing fee and biometrics fee. Check for updated fee amounts [here](#).
4. Photocopy of the I-20 created for you by ISSS for the purpose of change of status which you have signed and dated.
5. Copies of your passport, visa, F-2 I-20, and [a printout of your I-94](#).
6. Copies of the F-1 holder's passport, visa, I-94, current I-20, and transcripts proving they have been maintaining status.
7. Financial documentation showing [one year of tuition, fees, and living expenses](#) dated within the past 6 months.
  - a. If your sponsor is not your parent and is either a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, he or she must fill out a [Form I-134 Affidavit of Support](#).
8. A copy of your [I-901 SEVIS Fee](#) payment receipt. This can only be paid after your I-20 is issued.
9. A letter of explanation indicating why you want to change status. The letter should contain the following:
  - a. That you are requesting to change status from F-2 to F-1

- b. Your signature at the bottom of the letter
- c. The reason why you want to change status
- d. That you have followed all of the F-2 regulations and are currently in status

**C. Mail your application to USCIS**

Once you receive your new change of status I-20, mail your change of status application with all required documents to the USCIS Service Center.

**For U.S. Postal Service (USPS):**

USCIS  
PO Box 660166  
Dallas, TX 75266

**For FedEx, UPS, and DHL deliveries:**

USCIS  
Attn: I-539  
2501 S. State Hwy. 121 Business Suite 400  
Lewisville, TX 75067