



Change of Nonimmigrant Status

You must apply to the USCIS for change of status if you are in one nonimmigrant classification and want to change to another classification. Plan ahead – processing will take **at least three months**.

Changing from another status to F-1:

What you need to do:

- Complete form I-539 found at www.uscis.gov click on “Immigration Forms” and scroll down.
- Pay the SEVIS fee and print your receipt (See instruction handout)
- Turn in to CIE the following documents:
 1. Completed I-539
 2. Your check or money order of \$300 payable to: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
 3. Your receipt for payment of the SEVIS fee
 4. A copy of your I-94 and those of your dependents, if applicable.
 5. A copy of your passport bio page, visa, and current I-20 or DS-2019
 6. Evidence of your eligibility for F-1 status (I-20)
 7. Evidence of your financial support
 8. Optional: You may wish to include a letter explaining why you wish to change your status.

If you are changing to or from F-2 status:

Bring to CIE the above items AND:

1. Proof of your relationship to the primary status holder
 - If you are a spouse, a marriage certificate IN ENGLISH
 - If you are a child, your birth certificate
2. Copies of the primary status holder’s immigration documents: passport bio page, visa, I-94, and I-20

CIE will:

- Issue any new forms necessary to support your eligibility (I-20 or DS-2019)
- Review documents making sure that the forms are filled in properly and the packet is complete
- Send the packet to the USCIS in Lincoln Nebraska.

USCIS will:

- Send you a notice that they have received your application
- Make the decision by issuing you a form I-797 approval/denial notice and sending it to your address

Changing from F-1 to another status:

What you need to do:

- Complete form I-539 found at www.uscis.gov click on “Immigration Forms” and scroll down.
- Turn in to CIE the following documents:
 1. Completed I-539
 2. Your check or money order of \$300 payable to: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
 3. Your Form I-20
 4. A copy of your I-94 and those of your dependents, if applicable.
 5. A copy of your passport bio page, visa, and current I-20
 6. Evidence of your eligibility for new status (DS-2019)
 7. Evidence of your financial support for the new status
 8. Optional: You may wish to include a letter explaining why you wish to change your status.