

CHANGE OF STATUS

To change your status to F-1, we strongly recommend that you return to your home country and obtain an F-1 student visa. This is the only way that you will have both an F-1 visa in your passport and F-1 student status that is immediately effective on entry to the U.S. at your program start date. You will then be able to:

1. Begin your program as indicated on the Form I-20;
2. Have all F-1 benefits including time counted towards application for OPT and internships;
3. Be eligible to work part-time in some positions on the UCLA campus;
4. Travel abroad without getting a new F-1 visa.

While not recommended, the other method is to attempt to change your status in the United States. You will be responsible for this process and meeting all government requirements and requests for documents. For more information, visit www.uscis.gov. Please note that if you have entered the United States with ESTA (visa waiver) you are *not eligible* for a change of status within the country. Here are some cautions:

1. Your current visa status must be valid at the time of adjudication for a change of status to F-1. If your current status lapses before receiving an approval or denial notice, you should apply for an extension.
2. The change of status approval or denial for F-1 may take up to six (6) months or longer.
3. You will be responsible for contacting UCLA Extension's International Student Office (ISO) within two weeks of the start date of every quarter that your application is pending so that your SEVIS record can be updated.
4. You will be responsible for contacting UCLA Extension's ISO immediately when you get any communication from USCIS including receipt for your application and notice of approval or denial of the change of status.
5. If you do not contact UCLA Extension's ISO in all of said circumstances, you risk having your SEVIS I-20 record terminate which could cause you future problems. If we do not hear from you each quarter during the application pending period, we will not automatically update your SEVIS record.
6. You will not have the privileges of F-1 student status until the change of status is approved. Examples: B1/B2 visa holders may not enroll in class until the change of status is approved. H1 visa holders may not have time studied before the change of status is approved count towards the nine (9) months in F-1 status required to apply for OPT or paid internships and may not work on the UCLA campus until the change of status is approved.
7. Travel outside the U.S. while your change of status is pending means that your application is considered *abandoned*.
8. If your change of status is approved and you travel outside the United States afterwards, you are required to apply for an F-1 visa from the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in your home country before you can return to the U.S. to study.

Again, we do not recommend applying for a change of status from within the United States. The likelihood of obtaining a change of status in the U.S. is no greater than applying for the F-1 visa at an embassy. Students can spend more time and money on attorney fees than they would have spent by going home.

STATEMENT: I have read and understand the above information and agree to the terms.

Signature

Date

Family Name (*please print*)

First Name

SUBMIT WITH THIS FORM: (1) Copy of current visa
(2) Copy of Most Recent I-94 accessible at <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94>