Reinstatement Information Packet

Loss of Status

An F-1 international student who has failed to maintain his or her immigration status may request reinstatement from the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS). The USCIS has the discretion to reinstate students to lawful immigration status. In order to obtain valid F-1 student status, a student may file for reinstatement inside the United States or travel abroad to regain status. Generally speaking, the USCIS will reinstate a student to lawful F-1 student status if:

1. The violation of status was due to circumstances beyond the student’s control OR failure to be reinstated would result in extreme hardship to the student AND
2. The student is currently pursuing a full-time course of study AND
3. The student has not engaged in unauthorized employment AND
4. The student has not been out-of-status for more than 5 months.

Applying for Reinstatement inside the United States

If applying for a reinstatement without leaving the United States, you will need to prepare the following items:

☐ Check or money order for $290.00 payable to the Department of Homeland Security
☐ Copies of all previous form I-20s (pages 1 and 3)
☐ Original financial documentation for new form I-20
☐ Original I-94 card (white card given at the port of entry)
☐ Photocopy of valid passport and visa (If you are a Canadian citizen, you may enclose a copy of your citizenship card or a birth certificate & a government-issued photo ID)
☐ A cover letter from you explaining your circumstances. Be sure to address the above-mentioned criteria.
☐ Form I-901 receipt (proof that you have paid the SEVIS fee). Fee should be paid at [www.fmjfee.com/](http://www.fmjfee.com/)

OIP will prepare a new Form I-20 for the reinstatement application. An International Student Advisor will review your documents and once reviewed and prepared, an advisor will notify you. Please review the application carefully and sign the updated I-20. You or OIP (whichever you choose) will mail the application to United States Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS). After the reinstatement application is filed, you may continue to attend school while the application is pending. However, you may not begin an assistantship or engage in any on- or off-campus employment until your reinstatement application is approved by USCIS. It currently takes three to four months for USCIS to adjudicate such applications.
Online Filing option – USCIS ELIS

To apply online with the USCIS ELIS system, please visit [www.uscis.gov/uscis-elis](http://www.uscis.gov/uscis-elis) for instructions and log in information. The USCIS ELIS system is currently a faster service than sending a paper application. If you choose this process, make sure you update OIP with all approvals, denials, or correspondence you receive from USCIS.

Travelling Abroad to Regain Status

If you plan to travel abroad to obtain a new F-1 visa, you should present the following required documents, to the U.S. Consulate in your home country:

- Initial Form I-20 from the Office of International Programs
- Proof of financial support
- Evidence of non-immigrant intent
- Visa application form DS-160, available at the U.S. consulate or online here: [http://travel.state.gov/visa/forms/forms_4230.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/forms/forms_4230.html)
- Two photographs
- Visa processing fee receipt (separate from the SEVIS fee receipt)
- Valid passport
- Form I-901 fee receipt (proof that you have paid the SEVIS fee). Fee should be paid at [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com)

Please be advised that you may be subject to an additional security check that might delay the visa application process by a month or more. You will also need to present the I-20 form to the immigration official at the port of entry when you arrive in the U.S. Your passport should be valid six months longer than you expect to be in the U.S. and should be renewed in a timely manner. For more information please access the following website for a list of U.S. Consulates and a description of the F-1 visa application procedures at each: [http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/embassy/embassy_4825.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/embassy/embassy_4825.html).