



Office of International Student Programs & Services

Change to F-2 Status Guide (April 2018)

Overview

If your original reason for coming to the United States changes, you may be required to change your nonimmigrant status to a different one before you lawfully begin to engage in the activities you want to pursue. See 8 CFR § 248.1©.

Eligibility

A nonimmigrant is eligible to change to an F-2 status in the following circumstances:

- My spouse is an F-1 student (the “principal”).
- My spouse has changed to F-1 status from another nonimmigrant classification.

To Apply

- Schedule an appointment with an international student advisor. Be sure to bring:
 1. Completed [Form I-539](#) (type your answers and save as PDF);
 2. Current I-94 number print out for you and your spouse, which can be printed from the CPB website [here](#).;
 3. Current, valid visa passport for you and your spouse;
 4. Current, valid visa stamp (inside passport, unless stamped in old passport) for you and your spouse;
 5. Copy of I-20 document for you and your spouse;
 6. Truthful written statement to USCIS explaining why you want to change your status to F-2. You must explain that obtaining F-2 status was not your original intent when you entered the United States. Type this and bring it with you to your appointment;
 7. Copy of financial documents (bank statements or scholarship letter) to show that you can cover estimated expenses for one year; and
 8. Check or money order (money order preferred) for \$370 addressed to “U.S. Department of Homeland Security”