



Change of Status (COS) to F-2

Individuals who wish to change their status (COS) to F-2 will need to be sure to file the change of status while their **current visa status is still valid**. This will be determined by the expiration of the I-94 Arrival/Departure Record or other relevant document(s). Individuals in the U.S. under a B-1/B-2 visa are strongly encouraged to depart the U.S. and re-enter with an F-2 visa and I-20. The F-1 principal's visa status must be valid during the duration of the review application review process with USCIS. If the F-1 principal's status should expire while the change of status application is pending then it will be denied by USCIS.

- While USCIS general processing times are 2-3 months, most change of status applications will take much longer. Many change of status applications have taken up to nine (9) months for USCIS to process and some schools have reported a processing time of over twelve (12) months. ***Students should plan for a minimum USCIS processing time of between four (4) and nine (9) months.***
- Applicants may contact USCIS after 90 days from their application receipt notice date to inquire about their application. There are very limited options to request an expedite for an application and to learn more about USCIS's expedite policy go to [USCIS Expedite](#). The ISSS cannot intervene with USCIS to request an expedite.
- Once the application is filed you cannot travel outside the U.S. or your change of visa status will be considered abandoned.
- Once your change of visa status is approved, the next time you travel outside the U.S. you will be required to apply for an F-2 visa before you will be permitted to re-enter the U.S.

Eligibility to Study: The Student Exchange Visitor Program allows an F-2 to study at a college or university on a part-time basis but whether a change of status to F-2 applicant may study will depend upon the relevant regulations for the applicant's **current** visa status. If the applicant's **current visa status allows them to study** then the individual may study while they await the approval of their change of status. If the applicant's **current visa status does not allow them to study** then the individual cannot study until their change of status is approved by USCIS.

To apply for a change of status you will need to follow the steps below. All documents must be emailed to Intl.Stu@tamuc.edu with the subject line "Change of status to F-2." DO NOT copy any alternate email or drop your documents off in person at the ISSS. It is your responsibility to provide all documents listed below. Incomplete applications will not be processed:

- 1) Copy of all applicable documents listed below for individual applying for change of status:
 - a. Visa
 - b. Passport data and picture page only
 - c. I-94 Arrival/Departure record
 - d. All I-20's if previously in the U.S. as an F-1 student (if applicable)
 - e. Employment Authorization Document (if applicable)
 - f. USCIS Approval Notice (if applicable)
- 2) Copy of all of the applicable documents listed below for F-1 principal:

- a. Most recently issued I-20. The most recent I-20 issued is the I-20 you possess that has the most recent DATE ISSUED on page 1 under the SCHOOL ATTESTATION section.
 - b. Visa
 - c. Passport data and picture page only.
 - d. I-94 Arrival/Departure record. If paper copy I-94 then copy of front and back. If electronic record then print out from www.cbp.gov/I94.
 - e. Employment Authorization Document (if applicable)
 - f. USCIS Approval Notice (if applicable)
- 3) If any additional dependent's will be included in the application for the change of status to F-2 please provide the following documents:
- a. Visa
 - b. Passport data and picture page only
 - c. I-94 Arrival/Departure record
 - d. All I-20's if previously in the U.S. as an F-1 or F-2
 - e. Employment Authorization Document (if applicable)
 - f. USCIS Approval Notice (if applicable)
- 4) Proof of funding for additional \$3000 per dependent. For example, for a grad student who is adding one dependent proof of funding is \$26,000 + \$3,000=\$29,000
Applications that do not include **all** the documentation listed below will not be processed.
- a. The proof of funding may be a bank statement (checking or savings account) or certificate of deposit and ***statements for three (3) consecutive months is required.***
 - b. The financial statements must be within 6 months of the date the change of status application is submitted to the ISSS. ***A letter from a bank or employment letter is not sufficient.***
 - c. Applicants will need to include the ISSS affidavit (sponsors outside the U.S.) or the I-134 (sponsors in the U.S.) at [Funding Requirement for I-20 or DS-2019](#).
- 5) Copy of marriage license or official documentation verifying relationship. Must be translated into English through with translator's certification.
- 6) Letter stating reason for change of status

Once all documentation has been received the ISSS will review the documentation and issue the F-2 I-20 within 10 business days. A business day is Monday through Friday. All applications must be submitted to USCIS for adjudication and approval. Instructions for submitting your application to USCIS will be provided with your F-2 I-20.