



Change to F-1 Status

I. 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(c).

II. ELIGIBILITY

A nonimmigrant is eligible to change to an F-1 status in the following circumstances:

1. I do not currently have a C, D, K, M, or S visa.
2. I am not in the United States under the visa waiver program.
3. If I am currently in J-1 status, I am not subject to a 2-year home country residency requirement.

III. TO APPLY

1. Schedule an appointment with International Student Services. Be sure to bring:
 - a. Completed Form I-539 found at <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-539.pdf>
 - b. I-901 fee (SEVIS fee) receipt found at <https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/> (will print in appointment)
 - c. Current I-94 card (given to you on the plane and likely stapled inside your passport). If you entered the U.S. after May 2013, go to: www.cbp.gov/I94 to retrieve the I-94 number.
 - d. Current, valid passport
 - e. Current, valid visa stamp (inside passport, unless stamped in old passport)
 - f. Evidence of financial support sufficient to meet expenses detailed on I-20
 - g. Truthful written statement to USCIS explaining why you want to become a student after arriving to the U.S. in another visa category and why you deserve a change of status. You must establish that your original intention for entering the U.S. was not to become a student.
 - h. Check or money order (money order preferred) for \$290 addressed to "U.S. Department of Homeland Security"
 - i. Admission letter from Kent State University

NOTE: If you are in any dependent status (F-2, J-2, or H-4) bring the principal visa holder's immigration documents to your appointment in addition to the above-listed documentation. *If you are changing to F1 status, be prepared to pay the \$200 SEVIS I-901 fee (credit card), and the \$290 Change of Status fee (personal check or money order).