

International Student Admissions

10 South 2nd St., Box 1706, Reading, PA 19603
(610) 372-4721, Ext. 5259
(610) 607-6257 - Fax



Reinstatement for F-1 Students -Instructions-

I. EXPLANATION

If you have failed to maintain or have violated the terms of your F-1 status, it may be necessary for you to apply to the Department of Homeland Security/U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for reinstatement. Violations of F-1 status may include, but are not limited to, dropping below full-time enrollment without prior approval from the Office of International Student Admissions (ISA), failure to complete an immigration transfer in a timely manner, or attending a school or program other than that written on your I-20. For complete information about maintaining your immigration status, please visit the International Admissions Advisor. **If you are concerned that you may have violated your immigration status, make an appointment to see the International Admissions Advisor immediately to discuss your options for regaining lawful immigration status.**

II. CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS

A student may be reinstated to F-1 status under the following conditions given in the Code of Federal Regulations at 8 CFR § 214.2 (f) (16) (i) (A) – (F):

- The student has not been out of status for more than 5 months at the time of filing the request for reinstatement (or that the failure to file within the 5 month period was due to exceptional circumstances).
- The student has not engaged in illegal employment.
- The student does not have a record of willful or repeated violations of Service regulations.
- The student is currently pursuing or intends to pursue a full course of study.
- The student is not deportable on any ground other than section 237 (a) (1) (B) or (C) (i), which refer to overstaying or failing to maintain status.
- The student establishes that the violation resulted from circumstances beyond the student's control.

If you are not eligible for reinstatement, you may have other options for regaining your F-1 status. The International Admissions Advisor can discuss these options with you.

III. REINSTATEMENT APPLICATION PROCESS

You must meet with the International Admissions Advisor before applying for reinstatement.

- a) Discuss with the International Admissions Advisor whether or not payment of the SEVIS Fee is required in your reinstatement circumstance.
- b) Download and complete Form I-539 Application to Change or Extend Non-immigrant Status from the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov.
- c) Write a brief letter explaining why you failed to maintain your legal F-1 status.
- d) In addition to the I-539 and letter, include the following items in your reinstatement packet:
 - Check or money order payable to "USCIS" in the amount of \$300
 - Original NEW SEVIS I-20 marked "Reinstatement" in item 3

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- Photocopy of front and back of form I-94
 - Photocopies of all previous I-20s
 - Photocopy of ID page(s) of passport, including passport expiration date
 - Photocopy of visa page of passport
 - I-797 or computer receipt for SEVIS Fee (*if* required, see above)
 - Evidence of ample financial support for educational expenses as listed on I-20
- e) Make copies of the entire application packet and mail to:
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Vermont Service Center
75 Lower Welden Street
St. Albans, VT 04579
- f) When USCIS approves your reinstatement application, they will stamp the I-20 and return it to you or to ISA along with an approval notice. **If you receive your approval at your home address, you must bring the new documents to ISA to be photocopied.** If ISA receives your approved I-20, you will be contacted directly by your ISA Advisor. Your International Admissions Advisor will endorse your I-20 for travel.

IV. OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Once you have violated your status, ISA can no longer sign your documents for travel, give work authorization, or issue any letter or document on your behalf verifying your immigration status. However, we can help you to regain legal immigration status so that you can enjoy all of the benefits of being an F-1 student in the U.S. Please do not hesitate to contact us with your questions or concerns regarding immigration issues.

Consequences of Denial: If your application for reinstatement is denied, the following can happen:

- Your visa will be cancelled
- You may not apply for non-immigrant visas in a third country-only in your country of citizenship or legal permanent residence
- You will begin accumulating days of “unlawful presence” in the United States. After 180 days of unlawful presence, you may be subject to a 3-year bar from returning to the U.S. After one year of unlawful presence, the bar is increased to 10 years.

Alternatives to Reinstatement: You may also regain F-1 status by leaving the U.S. and re-entering with a new I-20. Discuss your situation with the International Admissions Advisor to find which option is appropriate.