



Change of Status Instructions F-1 Visa to F-2 Visa

Change of Status takes roughly 5 months to be approved. A change of status from F-1 to F-2 is not recommended if you wish to study full-time again in the near future. A change of status from F-1 to F-2 is recommended only if you will be fulfilling your educational goals and wish to remain in the US with a spouse who is still studying. To apply, you will need to gather the following documents:

- A completed [Form G-1145](http://www.uscis.gov/g-1145) found at <http://www.uscis.gov/g-1145>. This will allow you to receive electronic updates.
- A completed [Form I-539](http://www.uscis.gov/i-539) found at <http://www.uscis.gov/i-539>. Complete this to the best of your ability in **black ink**. If you are unsure of an answer, leave it blank, and you will complete it at your Change of Status appointment (please see below).
- Check or money order made payable to "U.S. Department of Homeland Security" for \$370
- A letter explaining why you decided to change visa status.
- Original I-94 or I-94 printout obtained at CBP.gov/I94
- Copies of all current I-20s.
- Copies of passport picture page and visa page
- Copy of spouse's F-1 I-20, showing you added as a dependent
- Your F-2 I-20 (after you have been added to your spouse's record)
- Copy of marriage certificate or license (must be officially translated into English)
- Proof of financial support from your spouse

After you have gathered these documents, it is recommended that you work with your spouse's school to review your packet, as this school will be the one to monitor your immigration record from here on out. However, you may choose to email international@kgi.edu to arrange an appointment with KGI staff if you wish. We will help you assemble your packet and provide instructions on mailing your packet to USCIS. The appointment will last about 15 minutes.

Can I stop studying?

It is recommended that you maintain your F-1 status by studying full time while the change of status application is pending. However, you may decide to reduce to part time study or stop studying while the change of status is pending. Your spouse must maintain his/her F1 status throughout the process. If you decide to stop studying, your application must be **received by USCIS no later than 60 days after your last day of class**. It is recommended that you apply for a change of status no later than 5 months before this date. It should also be noted that if you stop studying, and your change of status is denied, that you will have not protected your F-1 status. This means that you will have to leave the US immediately upon denial and apply for an F-2 visa in your home country. Denials of this change of status type are rare, but you should understand this risk if you choose to stop studying while the change of status application is pending.