

# Change of Status Guide: F-2 Visa to F-1 Visa

**DISCLAIMER:** Since 2016, the change of status process has become increasingly difficult and lengthy. It is recommended that individuals seeking to conduct a change of status obtain information from the KGI OISS *and* consult a qualified immigration attorney. KGI OISS will provide interested parties with information concerning the pros and cons of doing a change of status vs consular processing – it is up to the interested party to determine if filing a change of status is in their best interest, and that individual assumes all liability associated with any decision made. KGI OISS staff will provide regulatory and practice information as it stands at the time of the consult. Due to the fluid nature of governmental interpretation, applicants must understand that US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) reserves the right to change their interpretation of immigration regulations or eligibility requirements for benefits at any time.

## **Change of Status Process**

Currently, change of status applications are seeing lengthy processing times; current processing times for the I-539 at the California Service and Vermont Service Centers may be viewed [here](#). You can only study part time while the change of status is pending. You must be able to remain in the US on a valid F-2 visa while the application is pending (meaning your F-1 primary holder must maintain his/her F-1 status through the entire length of the application).

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. This could include how your full-time study in F-1 status will support your academic and career goals.
- Admission letter to our program (you need to be accepted before we can file for the change of status)
- Letter of current enrollment, if applicable
- Original I-94 or I-94 printout obtained at [CBP.gov/I94](http://CBP.gov/I94)
- Copies of passport picture page and visa page; do not send your passport
- Copy of spouse's F-1 I-20
- Financial statements showing the amount in available funds that will be listed on the reinstatement I-20. It is recommended that you submit at least 3 months' worth of statements showing the availability of these funds.

After you have gathered these documents, please email [international@kgi.edu](mailto:international@kgi.edu) to arrange an appointment. The appointment will last about 30 minutes. We will provide you with the Change of Status I-20 needed to apply for this process during your appointment. Please bring a major credit card with you to the appointment as you will need to pay your \$200 SEVIS fee at that time. We will help you assemble your packet and provide instructions on mailing your packet to USCIS.