

## Reinstatement to F-1 Student Status

The U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services recognizes that students may encounter difficulties while pursuing their educational objectives in the U.S., and, therefore, established a procedure for reviewing the circumstances surrounding your violation of status. This process is called Reinstatement to Student Status.

### Eligibility Requirements for Reinstatement to F-1 Student Status

#### You may not apply for reinstatement if:

- You have been in violation of status for more than 5 months. Only individuals who can demonstrate that their failure to apply for reinstatement in a timely manner was due to extraordinary circumstances will be considered for reinstatement.
- You have a history of repeated violations of status.
- You have been unlawfully employed in the U.S. Individuals who have accepted employment without prior authorization from the OIS or the USCIS are ineligible for reinstatement.
- You are in removal proceedings from the U.S. If you are engaged in deportation procedures, you are not eligible to apply for reinstatement.

#### You may apply for reinstatement to the USCIS, if you can demonstrate that:

- The violation resulted from circumstances beyond your control. Such circumstances would include, but are not limited to:
  1. Serious illness or injury
  2. Closure of school
  3. Natural disaster
- If you are not granted reinstatement to F-1 status and have to interrupt or terminate studies, it would result in extreme hardship.

You may show that you fulfill at least one of these requirements by completing a Request for Consideration for Reinstatement and the form 1-539 and submitting it with the supporting documentation to the Office of International Services.

### Instructions for writing the Request for Consideration for Reinstatement to Student Status

This is the most important part of your application! You must write a clear explanation of the circumstances, which caused you to violate your F-1 status. Remember that you are seeking to convince the immigration officer that you have a valid or understandable reason for the violations, that s/he will “forgive” it and reinstate you F-1 status. If this is your first violation of F-1 status and/or you have always been a full-time student, state that in your request.

You must have evidence to support your request. You may have a transcript or grade report to show that you were going to school full-time; or proof that you were taking or preparing for professional or entrance examinations; or a person who could write a supporting letter of explanation; or newspaper articles. If you have any such evidence, mention it in your “Request for Consideration” and staple it to that form.

## **Application Procedures**

To apply for reinstatement to the USCIS, complete and submit *all* of the following documents to the Office of International Services (OIS):

1. A completed form I-539.
2. Attachment to Form I-539 – Request for Consideration for Reinstatement to the Student Status.
3. Proof of financial support. This documentation may be no more than 6 months old.
4. Photocopies of all previously issued I-20 forms, including those issued by another institution of higher education.
5. Original Form I-94 (and those of any dependents).
6. \$200.00 fee in the form of a check or money order payable to U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services.

A Designated School Official in the Office of International Services will review your application prior to submitting it to the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services.

**The Immigration Service will take approximately 4-6 months to process your application.** Their answer will be sent to our office. When it is received, you will be contacted immediately.

### **Suspension of F-1 Benefits Pending USCIS Review**

Your F-1 benefits are suspended until an answer has been received from the USCIS. During this period, you are not eligible for on or off-campus employment, including graduate assistantships and practical training.

### **Travel and Re-entry to U.S.**

If you wish to travel while your application is pending with the USCIS, a new form I-20 must be issued to you for re-entry. You must contact the OIS at least 2 weeks prior to your intended departure date.