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## Change of Status: J-1 or J-2 to F-1 Student

Due to the complexity of J status regulations, the Office of International Affairs recommends that you speak with an advisor before you begin the application process. If you are subject to Section 212(e), also known as the “two-year home residency requirement,” you cannot change to F-1 status in the United States unless you have received a recommendation for a waiver of the requirement from the Department of State. If you are eligible to change status while in the United States, you will need to be admitted to a full-time academic program to be issued a Form I-20.

### Application Procedure

Your request to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for a change of status should consist of the following:

- Completed Form I-539 with the processing fee. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Department of Homeland Security. For the most current fee information, visit [uscis.gov](https://uscis.gov) and scroll down to “Forms and E-Filing” to find the appropriate fee.
- Receipt for paying SEVIS I-901 Fee. Go to [FMJfee.com](https://fmjfee.com) for full details.
- Copy of pages 1 and 3 of the Form I-20, signed and dated
- Copy of the front and back of the Form I-94 card or printed copy of electronic I-94 card and copy of admission stamp
- If J-2, copies of J-1’s valid DS-2019 and I-94
- Copy of financial verification
- Copies of the pages in each individual’s passport that include biographical information, passport picture and passport expiration
- Statement about why you need to change status from J-1 or J-2 to F-1

**Note:** If you have been offered an assistantship, please include and highlight in your letter: “**Please grant expedite: Assistantship pending.**” Also, write on the bottom left corner of the envelope “**Expedite: Assistantship pending.**”