



Office of International Programs
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Change to F-2 Status

I. Overview

If your original reason for coming to the United States changes, you may be required to change your nonimmigrant status to a different one before you lawfully begin to engage in the activities you want to pursue. See 8 CFR § 248.1©.

II. Eligibility

A nonimmigrant is eligible to change to an F-2 status in the following circumstances:

1. My spouse is an F-1 student (the “principal”).
2. My spouse has changed to F-1 status from another nonimmigrant classification.

III. To Apply

1. [Schedule an appointment](#) with an international student advisor. Be sure to bring:
 - a. Completed Form I-539 (type answers and save as PDF) found at: <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-539.pdf>
 - b. Current I-94 number printout found at <http://cbp.gov/i94> for you and your spouse
 - c. Current, valid passport for you and your spouse
 - d. Current, valid visa stamp (inside passport, unless stamped in old passport) for you and your spouse
 - e. Current, valid I-20 document for you and your spouse
 - f. Truthful written statement (type and save file to bring with you) to USCIS explaining why you want to change your status to F-2. You must explain that obtaining F-2 status was not your original intent when you entered the United States
 - g. Copy of financial documents (bank statements or scholarship letter) to show that you can cover estimated expenses for one year
 - h. Check or money order (money order preferred) for \$370 addressed to “U.S. Department of Homeland Security”

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