

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

There are two methods for changing your visa status:

1. Exit the United States, and while abroad apply for the new visa type (Recommended)
2. Remain in the United States and File form I-539

### Eligibility

- Student applying for F-2 status must be in good standing
- Student who will be recognized as the F-1 principal must also be in good standing

Application Process for Students Submitting for I-539 (Processing may take between 1-6 months)

- **Have the F-1 principal submit a request for a dependent I-20**
  - ISS will then issue you a new Dependent I-20
- **Obtain a new dependent I-20**
- **Complete form I-539 (Application for Change of Nonimmigrant Status)**
  - Form I-539: <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-539.pdf>
  - Instructions for form I-539: <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-539instr.pdf>
- **Money Order or personal check**
  - \$370.00, made payable to: *US Department of Homeland Security* (Spell this out exactly as written)
- **Personal Statement**
  - Addressed to USCIS requesting your change of status and explaining why you entered the United States and why/how your circumstances have changed, thus requiring a new visa type.
- **Copies of your immigration documents:**
  - Current and all past I-20's
  - Passport and visa stamp
  - Front and back of your I-94, or electronic copy
    - To retrieve a copy of your I-94, visit: <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/>
- **Copies of principal F-1's immigration documents**
  - Current I-20
  - Passport and visa stamp
  - Front and back of your I-94, or electronic copy
    - To retrieve a copy of your I-94, visit: <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/>
- **Financial Documentation**
  - Same financial information used to obtain I-20 from SUU
- **Marriage certificate (or official family record)**
- **Set an appointment with an SUU Designated School Official (DSO) to review your information**
- **Send completed application to:**

USCIS California Service Center		USCIS California Service Center
PO Box 10539	or	24000 Avila Road Second Floor, Rm 2312
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-1053		Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

  - Make copies of everything in your application packet before sending to USCIS.
  - Use a receipt-based mailing option such as certified mail so there will be evidence that the documents were received by USCIS.

### **E-Notification**

Students interested in receiving a text or email from USCIS that their documents have been received may complete Form G-1145, E-Notification of Application/Petition Acceptance as the first page of their application.

- Download from G-1145 from: [www.uscis.gov/g-1145](http://www.uscis.gov/g-1145)

For more information about this process, visit: <http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students/change-of-status>

**Please inform International Student & Scholar Services immediately after you have been notified of the outcome**

### **QUESTIONS**

Please contact International Student & Scholar Services at (435)586-1995 or [internationalaid@suu.edu](mailto:internationalaid@suu.edu) if you have questions or need further information.