

Duration of Status Rule Change

International Student and Scholar Services

University of Oregon

July 2026



**International Student
and Scholar Services**



Agenda

What is changing?

Who is impacted?

Why does it matter?

What you need to know?

What support is available?



Major rule change

Key proposed changes include:

- ✓ “Duration of Status” eliminated
- ✓ Fixed admission period based on program length but no more than 4 years
- ✓ Extension of stay may be required if more time is needed
- ✓ F-1 transfer restrictions in first year
- ✓ Graduate students will face limits on changing programs
- ✓ Grace period reduced from 60 days to 30 days
- ✓ Biometrics may be required for extension applications

What is Duration of Status (D/S)?

D/S means F and J students' and scholars' entry to the U.S. is tied to maintaining status, **not one fixed date**.

Upon entry to U.S., CBP issues I-94 arrival record with **Admit Until Date** as **D/S** (Duration of Status).

Under this current policy, students and scholars may remain in the United States as long as they:

- maintain proper enrollment;
- make progress towards their academic program or research; and
- work only with the proper authorization.

This policy provides students & scholars the flexibility needed to successfully navigate their academic journeys.

ISSS has always managed and monitored D/S status for our international students & scholars.



Most Recent I-94

Admission (I-94) Record Number :

Most Recent Date of Entry: 2018 November 23

Class of Admission : F1

Admit Until Date : D/S



Details provided on the I-94 Information form:

Last/Surname :

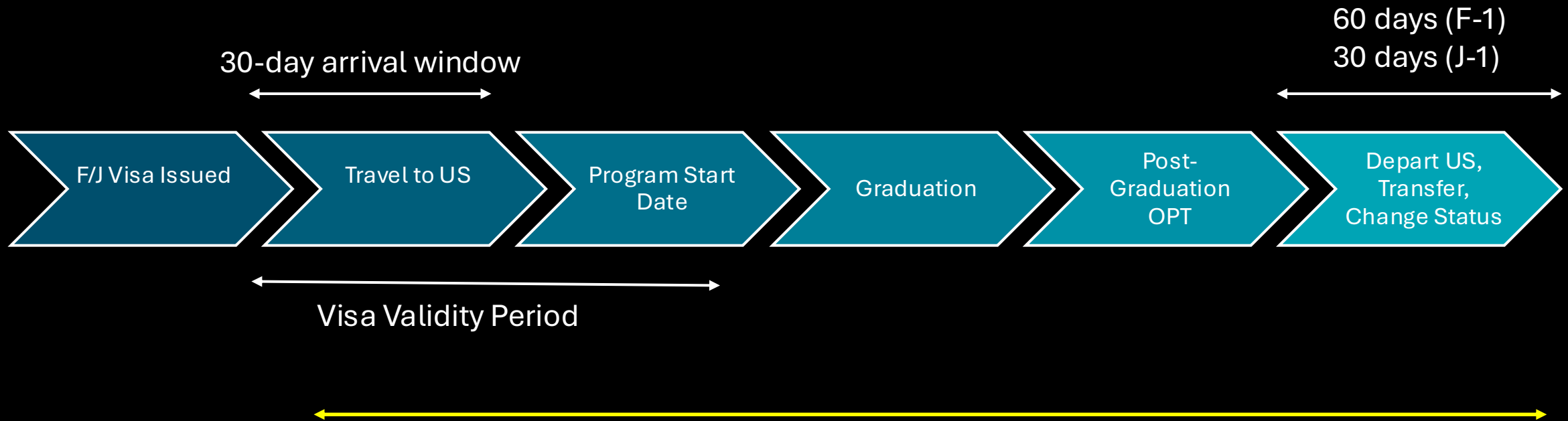
First (Given) Name :

Birth Date :

Passport Number :

Country of Issuance :

Duration of Status



F/J Status

No fixed end date. Legal status managed by ISSS.

What has changed?

- Rule change goes into effect September 15, 2026
- Replaces D/S on the I-94 with a **specific end date**.
- **Limits admission** to the U.S. until the program end date on the I-20 or DS-2019, **up to a maximum of four years**.
- Requires students and scholars to **apply directly to USCIS for an extension of stay**.
- Reduces the F-1 grace period from 60 days to 30 days.
- Creates **additional restrictions** for changing schools or academic programs.
- **Limits doing another program** at the same or lower degree level.



U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Securing America's Borders

Most Recent I-94

Admission (I-94) Record Number :

Most Recent Date of Entry: 2018 November 23

Class of Admission : F1

Admit Until Date : ~~D/S~~ 6/15/2028



Details provided on the I-94 Information form:

Last/Surname :

First (Given) Name :

Birth Date :

Passport Number :

Country of Issuance :

What is an extension of stay?

An extension of stay (EOS) allows students & scholars to remain in the U.S. **beyond their Admit Until Date.**

Only USCIS can approve an EOS – application & fee apply (\$420)

USCIS application will require:

- A valid reason for the extension, such as unforeseen circumstances or ongoing studies.
- Supporting documents, like proof of financial means and a valid passport, are usually required.

EOS are not guaranteed and are subject to approval based on immigration laws.

EOS decisions could take several months

ISSS will provide guidance on how to file an EOS, but we cannot extension of status if they fail to file before the Admit Until Date expires.



Most Recent I-94

Admission (I-94) Record Number :

Most Recent Date of Entry: 2018 November 23

Class of Admission : F1

Admit Until Date : ~~D/S~~ 6/15/2028



Details provided on the I-94 Information form:

Last/Surname :

First (Given) Name :

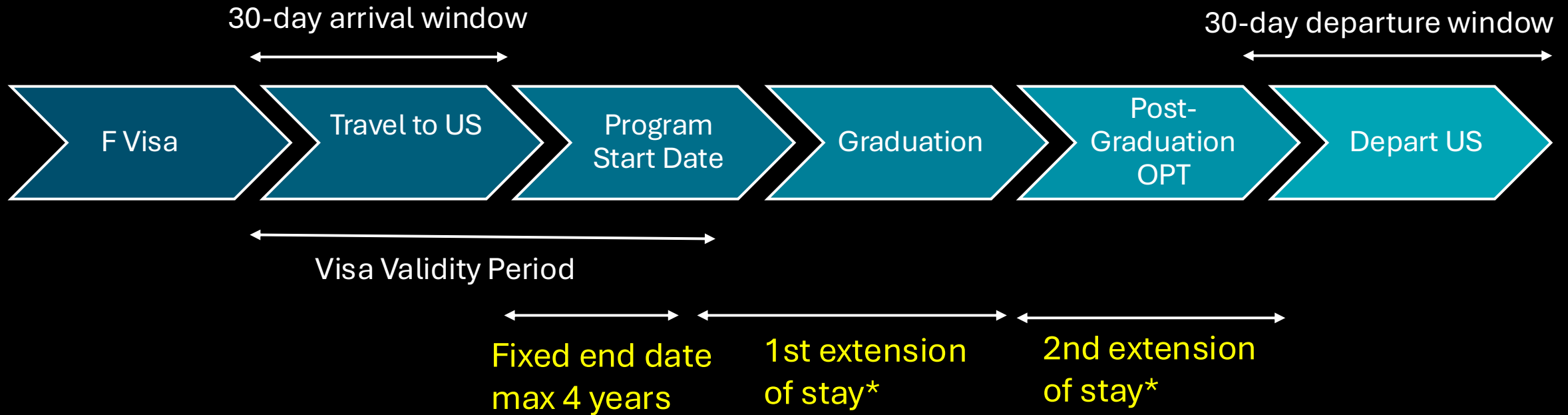
Birth Date :

Passport Number :

Country of Issuance :

Example #1

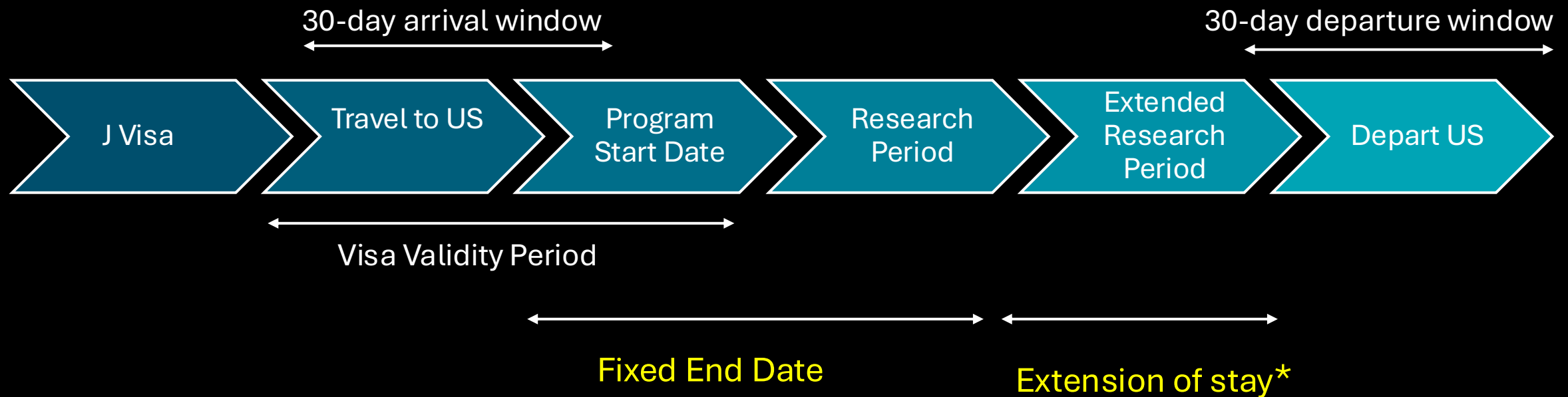
Fixed End Date for F-1 PhD Student



*Extension of stay approved by USCIS

Example #2

Fixed End Date for J-1 Scholar



*Extension of stay approved by USCIS

Who will be impacted?

Bottom line...

If a student's or scholar's study, work or research continues beyond their most recent I-94 fixed end date, they must file an extension of stay with USCIS!

- Students who will need to file an extension:
 - PhDs who need more than 4 years to complete degree
 - Undergrads who need more than 4 years to complete degree
 - Students transferring in from another institution
 - Students transferring out to another institution
 - Students changing educational programs
 - Students applying for OPT
 - Students applying for STEM OPT
- Scholars needing to extend their research period

Why does this matter

- Will create more deadline-driven compliance, advising and record management pressure on students, scholars, and ISSS office
- Longer, delayed, research-heavy, transfer and professional programs will require closer tracking and earlier extension planning
- ISSS will have less direct control over continuation of F and J status
- Students & scholars now solely responsible for knowing their I-94 admit until date and take the steps necessary to maintain legal status
- Financial documentation will become more important not only at admission and I-20 issuance, but later on when filing for extension of stay with USCIS
- Incomplete, weak and questionable financial documentation or reason for extension could have serious consequences for a student's or scholar's ability to remain legally in the US
- Students will need to plan for extensions of stay months in advance

What students & scholars need to know

- If they are currently in the U.S., nothing changes as long as they maintain the conditions of their F or J status and will **continue to be in D/S through the end of their I-20 or DS-2019 program end date.**
- They must file an extension of stay with USCIS if they:
 - Need to extend I-20 or DS-2019 to complete degree or research
 - Apply for OPT or academic training
 - Transfer to another program (restriction on transferring to same-level program)
 - Need to change their visa status
 - Change their educational level
- If they **leave the U.S. at any point in their program**, they will be re-admitted to the US with a fixed end date and will no longer be under D/S.
- They are now **solely responsible** for knowing the *Admit Until Date* on their I-94 and the I-20 or DS-2019 program end date **and taking action before these documents expire.**
- ISSS and the university cannot be held responsible if they do not file an extension of stay application with USCIS before their documents expire.

What students & scholars need to do

- **Each time they travel and re-enter the US**, they must
 - download their I-94 arrival record
 - carry most recent I-94 at all times (also evidence of registration with US gov't)
 - **make note of the I-94 *Admit Until Date***
 - **report their most recent I-94 fixed end date to ISSS**
- Plan to file extensions of stay 6-12 months in advance!
- Review the **ISSS website** for more detailed information and guidance

Recommendations for Departments hosting J-1 Scholars on DS-2019s

- Request J-1 Scholars for maximum duration from the onset – 6 months (Short-Term Scholars) or 5 years (Professors/Research Scholars) – whenever possible
- Be prepared to write a Department Extension Memo that says you confirm hosting scholar for the duration of the 5 years, with specific language
- Provide strong onboarding/offboarding support to your visiting scholars – and help them understand that even though their DS-2019s are for longer, their position at the UO is contingent on annual review/funding
- Request contract renewals as early as possible (and for as long as possible) - to give scholars maximum time to apply for an extension of stay with USCIS
- Remind Scholars to keep track of their fixed end dates on their Form I-94s (and share the document with HR/I-9 and ISSS every time)
- Departments should initiate Extension Requests as early as possible
- Case advising support to departments and academic advisors/faculty
- Information sessions and workshops throughout the year to provide guidance and answer question

Things to think about for Departments hosting J-1 Scholars on DS-2019s

- Onus on departments and scholars to inform ISSS immediately if there are material changes or amendments to their programs (funding source, department/supervisor changes, program objectives changing, site of activity changing, etc...) - as ISSS may or may not be able to take action on SEVIS records and scholars may need to file extensions of stays for these changes
- Do departments want to pay/assist with USCIS filing fees for J-1 Scholars (or for Premium Processing if that option is available) - ISSS is not involved in this process
- If a decision is pending from USCIS, Departments may need to put the scholar on unpaid leave until a decision is made
- Factor in that travelling to extend admission date is inherently risky and includes increased vetting, as well as needing to renew visas, so may need to think about delays or scholar being away for longer periods of time.
- Scholars who transfer into UO or transfer out of UO can have unforeseen delays and complications, so preparing in advance is highly recommended
- Lots still unknown due to vague language in the final rule – please ask ISSS and have scholars reach out to ischolar@uoregon.edu with their questions!



What support will ISSS provide

- Expertise and guidance on maintaining legal F and J status
- Reminders to request extension of I-20 or DS-2019
- Guidance on how to file an extension of stay application with USCIS
- Guidance on retrieving Form I-94 (evidence of legal status and fixed end date)
- Case advising support to departments and academic advisors/faculty
- Information sessions and workshops throughout the year to provide guidance and answer questions

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