

Changing From F-1 to F-2 Dependent Status

(rev 10/29/19)

Who is this information for?

- You are already in the US in a valid non-immigrant status
- You have received Form I-20 for F-2 from the University of Oregon
- You have decided to change your status from inside the United States

What are the requirements for obtaining F-2 student status by applying to USCIS?

The main requirements include the following:

- Submission of Form I-539 to USCIS, along with supporting documents and I-539 filing fee (\$370) and \$85 biometric fee
- You must apply for a change of status before your current status expires
- Your current status must be valid up to at least 30 days before your requested F-2 status begins

What happens after I have obtained F-2 status?

You are required to comply with all F-2 rules once you have changed to F-2 dependent status by travel or by application. These rules include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Maintain an unexpired passport valid at least six months into the future at all times
- Principal F-1 must maintain an unexpired I-20
- Principal F-1 must maintain F-1 status
- No work allowed
- Part-time study allowed

Change of Status Application – Basic Steps

Step 1: Meet with an international student advisor in the Division of Global Engagement to request an F-2 dependent I-20.

- Call 541-346-3206 to make an appointment

Step 2: Prepare your I-539 Application Packet

- Make a copy of your complete application packet for your records
- Completed and signed USCIS Form I-539 (download from <http://www.uscis.gov/i-539>)
 - USCIS will only accept the revised Form I-539 with an edition date of 02/04/2019.

- Every co-applicant included on the primary applicant's Form I-539 must submit and sign a separate Form I-539A. Parents may sign on behalf of children under 14.
 - Every applicant and co-applicant must pay an \$85 biometric services fee, except certain A, G, and NATO nonimmigrants as noted in the new Form I-539 instructions to be published on March 1, 2019.
 - Every applicant and co-applicant will receive a biometric services appointment notice, regardless of age, containing their individual receipt number. The biometric services appointments will be scheduled at the Application Support Center (ASC) closest to the primary applicant's address. Co-applicants who wish to be scheduled at a different ASC location should file a separate Form I-539.
- Completed USCIS Form G-1145 (download from <http://www.uscis.gov/g-1145>)
 - \$370 filing fee paid by check or money order and made payable to: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.
 - Copy of signed F-2 I-20 (keep original). Remember to have the primary F-1 print his/her name, sign his/her name, and date the original I-20 before making a copy.
 - Proof of financial support showing that the primary F--1 is able to support the dependent F2 financially. Copies of recent bank statements, scholarship, GE offers are acceptable.
 - Letter of explanation that briefly explains why you would like to change status to F-2.
 - Marriage certificate
 - Photocopies of your immigration documents:
 - ID page of passport (passport should be valid at least six months into the future)
 - Most recent I-94 record (print out from <http://i94.cbp.dhs.gov>)
 - Copy of current F-1 I-20
 - F-1 visa
 - Photocopies of your spouse's immigration documents:
 - ID page of his/her passport
 - F-1 visa
 - I-20 (this should include the financial support for you as a dependent)
 - I-94 printed out from cbp.gov/i94

Step 3: Mail your I-539 Application Packet to US Citizenship and Immigration Services.

U.S. Postal Service:
 USCIS Dallas Lockbox
 P.O. Box 660166
 Dallas, TX 75266

USPS Express Mail/Courier:
 USCIS
 Attn: I-539
 2501 S. State Highway 121 Business
 Suite 400
 Lewisville, TX 75067

Step 4: Wait for your I-797 Receipt Notice. Update address information as necessary. Notify ISSS when your application has been approved.

- You should receive a receipt notice within 2-4 weeks after USCIS has received your application. Keep the receipt for your records.
- Once your application has been approved, bring a copy of the official approval notice to the Office of International Affairs.

SPECIAL NOTES

- Applications may take 4-6 months or longer to be processed. Please plan ahead!
- Persons whose current status are not based on an UO affiliation are strongly recommended to consult with a qualified immigration specialist or attorney.