

# Applying for a Change of Status From B-2 to J-2

Send the following documents to: USCIS California Service Center  
P.O. Box 10539  
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-1053

1. \$300 check or money order payable to U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2. USCIS Form I-539 (download from <http://www.uscis.gov/>; click on Immigration Forms tab; choose I-539).
3. Perhaps a letter of explanation of why B-2 entered as tourist instead of J-2
4. Clear and obvious request for a specific effective date, if necessary or desired
5. New, original complete dependent, DS-2019 – have J-1 sign
6. Evidence of financial support showing enough funds for BOTH J-1 and J-2. USCIS Form I-134 is recommended (download from <http://www.uscis.gov/>; click on Immigration Forms tab; choose I-134). Other evidence that *may* be sufficient: Past 4 months of bank statements (a letter from the bank is insufficient).
7. Photocopies of J-1's DS-2019
8. Photocopy of J-1's I-94 (recommended)
9. Photocopy of J-1's visa (recommended)
10. Photocopy of J-1's photo ID page in passport
11. **Photocopy** of front & back of B-2's I-94 (not original as instructions say)
12. Photocopy of B-2's visa used to enter U.S.
13. Photocopy of photo ID page in passport of B-2
14. Photocopy of expiration date page in both passports
15. Proof of relationship between J-1 and J-2

As always, it is recommended that you keep copies of all documents that you send to or receive from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service. ISSS also suggests that you mail the application in a manner that guarantees proof of delivery (e.g. certified and return receipt).

**Note:** You will become subject to the two-year home residency requirement if the J-1 primary is subject.

## Processing Time

Processing times can be found at: <https://egov.uscis.gov/cris/isps/ptimes.jsp> Choose "California Service Center". Make note of the Processing Dates immediately above the top of the chart. Scroll down to Form I-539 and look for the appropriate basis for filing.

Example:

Service Center Processing Dates for **California Service Center** as of: **February 28, 2009**

Form	Title	Classification or Basis for Filing	Processing Timeframe
I-539	Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant	Change Status to the J exchange visitor category	3 months

In this case, applications received on February 28, 2009, were taking approximately 3 months to process.

## **Online Status Check**

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The status of your application can be checked online with a receipt number:

<https://egov.uscis.gov/cris/jsps/index.jsp>

## **Moving/Change of Address**

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If you move or need to change the address written on the I-539 (where application receipt and approval notice will be sent) while your change of status application is pending:

- Notify USCIS at: <https://egov.uscis.gov/crisgwi/go?action=coa>

The U.S. Post Office will NOT forward any correspondence from USCIS even if you have a mail forwarding request on file.