

# Applying for a Change of Status From F-1 to F-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. Clear and obvious request for a specific effective date, if necessary or desired
4. New F-2 dependent SEVIS I-20, have primary F-1 sign item #11, page 1 of I-20
5. Evidence of financial support for both F-1 and new F-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).
6. Photocopy of applicant's current F-1 I-20 (and EAD if on post-completion OPT)
7. Photocopy of applicant's I-94 card (front and back)
8. Photocopy of applicant's visa used to enter U.S.
9. Photocopy of applicant's passport pages(s)
10. Photocopy of new primary F-1's updated I-20
11. Photocopy of new primary F-1's I-94 card (front and back)
12. Photocopy of new primary F-1's visa and passport page(s)
13. Proof of relationship between F-1 and F-2 (marriage or birth certificate; as appropriate)

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).

## Processing Time

Processing times can be found at: <https://egov.uscis.gov/cris/jsps/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	Status Change status to the F or M academic or vocational student categories	3 months

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

## Online Status Check

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

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.