

# Applying for a Change of Status From J-1 to F-1

Once you receive your I-20, submit form I-901 and pay the required \$200 SEVIS fee. A copy of the receipt verifying payment of the SEVIS fee must be included with your change of status application. The I-901 form, instructions fee payment options may be found at:  
<http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/index.htm>.

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

1. \$300 application fee. Check or money order payable to 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, original SEVIS I-20 (all 3 pages); sign #11
5. Photocopy of your I-901 SEVIS fee payment receipt
6. Evidence of financial support. 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. Copy of waiver, if applicable [or advisory opinion stating not subject to 212 (e)]
8. **Photocopy** of front & back of J-1 applicant's I-94 (not original as instructions say)
9. Photocopy of applicant's J-1 visa (or visa used to enter U.S.)
10. Photocopy of J-1's photo ID and expiration date pages in passport
11. Copy of J-1's current DS-2019

**Note:** This option is not available if you are subject to the 212(e) 2-year home residency requirement, unless you are first able to obtain a waiver. The waiver process can take several months, so advance planning will be needed to avoid expiration of your J-1 status prior to the filing of your Change of Status application. Assistance in determining if you are subject to this requirement and information on applying for a waiver may be found at [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/info/info\\_1296.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/info/info_1296.html)

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/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	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**

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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>  
AND
- Notify ISSS

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