

Applying for a Change of Status From L-2 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 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. **Photocopy** of L-2 I-94
8. Photocopy of L-2 visa
9. Photocopy of photo ID and expiration date pages in passport of L-2 applicant
10. Photocopy of parent's/spouse's L-1 Approval Notice – Form I-797A with I-94
11. Current letter verifying L-1 is currently employed in position as approved in I-797.

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>
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.