

Reinstatement for F-1 Students

An F-1 student who has overstayed their authorized period of stay or has otherwise failed to maintain F-1 student status may be reinstated to lawful F-1 status at the discretion of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) district director.

The USCIS director may reinstate the student to lawful F-1 status if the student:

1. Establishes to the satisfaction of the USCIS director that the violation of status resulted from circumstances beyond the student's control or that failure to receive reinstatement to lawful F-1 status would result in extreme hardship to the student
2. Is currently pursuing, or intending to pursue, a full course of study at the school that issued the form I-20
3. Has not engaged in unauthorized employment
4. Is not deportable on any ground other than section 241(a)(1)(B) or (c)(i) of the Act {overstaying or failing to maintain status}. {8 CFR 214.2(f)(16)(i)}

Application Procedure

1. Submit documents to the Office of International Affairs to get Reinstatement I-20 (Refer to the [Required Documents for 1-20 Issuance](#) handout)
2. You must submit a completed Form I-539 to USCIS with "c" checked and "Reinstatement to student status" written in Part 2, item 1. For the online Form I-539, visit uscis.gov/i539online. You must upload the following documents to your online I-539:
 - Copy of all three pages of your new form I-20 with the "Reinstatement" annotation in section three. Be sure to hand-sign the I-20 before uploading.
 - Processing fee (input your credit card information to the I-539)
 - Receipt for paying I-901 Fee if you have been out of status **for more than five months**. Go to fmjfee.com to pay online. For other methods of payment, see ice.gov/sevis/i901/faq.
 - Copy of front and back of Form I-94 or printed copy of electronic Form I-94 card
 - Copy of admission stamp (if you received one)
 - **Copies** of previously issued Forms I-20 (if available)
 - Verification of financial support
 - Written statement of explanation addressed to USCIS stating the following:
 - Why the student is out of status (specify the violation)
 - The reason for the status violation
 - The effect on the student of failure to receive reinstatement
 - A statement that the student is currently pursuing or intending to pursue a full course of study

For more information, please see the instructions located on the Form I-539. Note that you may still choose to file the Form I-539 by mail, if preferred.

Contact [Student Legal Services](#) to review your reinstatement application prior to submission.