



F-1 REINSTATEMENT INFORMATION

TO APPLY FOR F-1 REINSTATEMENT

Assemble and submit the following to the International Student Advisor:

- ▶ Completed Form I-539 "Application to Change/Extend Nonimmigrant Status. Downloadable at: www.uscis.gov/graphics/formsfee/forms/files/i-539.pdf
- ▶ Letter to "U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services" explaining why you are out of status. Be specific.
- ▶ Photocopy of the visa page in your passport.
- ▶ Photocopy (front and back) of your Form I-94 "Arrival-Departure Record" (the small white card stapled in your passport).
- ▶ Current notarized Affidavit of Support.
- ▶ Current bank statement from your sponsor (or you, if you are sponsoring yourself).
- ▶ Check or money order for \$300.00, made payable to "USCIS."

Submit all materials to the International Student Advisor, Doni Williams, at the University Center. You will be contacted when your packet is ready to pick up.

After you pick up your packet, send it via a mail service that can track or verify delivery through the United States Post Office to:

**USCIS California Service Center
P.O. Box 10539
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-1053**

Telephone Number: (800) 375-5283

F-1 REINSTATEMENT is a procedure that allows you to explain the circumstances that caused you to violate the terms of your F-1 student status by filing an application with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

USCIS recognizes that students experience problems while pursuing their education in the United States. When you can show that the violation of the F-1 regulations happened for reasons beyond your control or that the violation was merely technical (like missing a deadline) and not serious, the Immigration Service is likely to forgive your violation and restore your F-1 student status. You may also be reinstated if you can demonstrate that failure to regain your F-1 student status and the resulting interruption to your studies in the United States would cause great hardship for you.

RULES FOR APPLYING FOR REINSTATEMENT

You will be asked to complete an **I-539** form and write a clear explanation of what happened and why the violation was not directly your fault. If you did not know that you were breaking a rule you should say so, but do not expect to be returned to status for that reason alone. Most immigration rules are on page two of your original Form I-20 and you were supposed to read them before signing this document and applying for the F-1 student visa. When students meet their international student advisor to discuss reinstatement, your case will be reviewed, and if necessary, advice will be given to improve and support your presentation of your case.

Documentation of evidence can be very important in helping you to get reinstated. If you can, be sure to include any supporting evidence such as a letter from home, newspaper clippings about conditions at home, an affidavit from someone who is familiar with the circumstances that caused the violation, your transcript or anything else that would be helpful to your application.

A new Form I-20 is required for your reinstatement application. You will also need a new affidavit of support and proof of available funds proving your financial ability to support the costs of studying and living in the U.S. for the next year of study or for the remainder of your studies if less than one academic year.

If you have worked without authorization, you are not eligible to be reinstated by the USCIS District Office. In this case, you will need to carefully discuss with your international student advisor the possibilities of reinstatement by travel and re-entry in initial F-1 student status.

HOW A VIOLATION OF STATUS AFFECTS YOU

- ▶ You must continue your full-time studies as usual while your application for reinstatement is being processed by Immigration.
- ▶ You may not continue to work on-campus while your application is being processed by Immigration.
- ▶ Your privileges and benefits as an F-1 student will be suspended at this school, and at any school to which you might transfer until you are reinstated. This means you are not eligible for any type of off-campus employment, or change of academic level notification procedure to USCIS, or an extension of time to complete your academic level.
- ▶ It may take up to six months for Immigration to respond to your application for reinstatement of F-1 status.
- ▶ If it becomes necessary for you to travel outside the United States during the time in which you are awaiting a decision from Immigration on your application for reinstatement, please make an appointment to meet your international student advisor to discuss this situation.