



Change of Status: F-2 Dependent to F-1 Student

To change your status while in the United States from a F-2 dependent to a F-1 student, you will need to be admitted to a full-time academic program at a school that can issue you a Form I-20. In addition, your F-1 spouse must be in the U.S. and in status when you are requesting this change.

Note: If you are traveling outside the United States, you can accomplish the change of status upon reentry if you take your Form I-20 and financial documents with you and obtain a F-1 Visa at a U.S. Consulate. Upon obtaining the F-1 Visa, you can enter the United States as a F-1 student.

As a F-2 visa holder, you are not eligible to be a full-time student. However, you are able to take courses on a part-time basis. Therefore, if you wish to study full time, you must apply for a change of status from a F-2 dependent to a F-1 student. F-2 visa holders also may not receive wages or compensation of any kind until the F-1 student status is approved.

Your request for change of status to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) should consist of the following:

- Completed [Form I-539](#) with the online processing fee of \$420 and the \$85 Biometrics fee. Checks and money orders should be made payable to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. For the most current fee information, visit the [Fee Schedule](#). It is recommended that you file and pay online.
- Receipt for paying SEVIS I-901 Fee. Go to [FMJfee.com](#) for full details.
- Copies of F-2 Dependent and F-1 Student Form I-20s, signed and dated
- Copy of the front and back of the Form I-94 card or printed copy of electronic I-94 card and copy of admission stamp. You can find this at [cpb.gov](#).
- Financial verification
- Copies of your dependent's valid immigration forms: I-94, I-20
- Copies of the pages in each individual's passport that include biographical information, passport picture and passport expiration
- Proof of enrollment or admission to the university

Schedule a meeting with the Director of Culture & Belonging to review the above documents by contacting 330.490.7155 or CultureAndBelonging@walsh.edu.