



International Student Program

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CHANGE OF STATUS APPLICATION

Eligibility

To be eligible for a change of status to F-1 (academic student) in the United States, you must:

1. have valid nonimmigrant status when you file the application
2. ensure that your current nonimmigrant status will continue to be valid up until the date that the new status is requested to begin (the next available program start date) or within 30 days.
3. be **not** yet enrolled in classes (for B-1/ B-2 visitors)
4. be **not** subject to section 212(e) two year home country physical residency requirement (for J-1 exchange visitors)
5. have **not** engaged in unauthorized employment

In addition, Las Positas College requires that you must:

6. apply at least 2.5 months (the current processing wait time) before the requested program start date to ensure that you are able to study for that semester (for B-1/B-2 visitors)

It is also strongly recommended that you:

7. apply at least 30 days (60 days preferred) after your arrival in the U.S. to avoid the presumption of fraudulent intent (for B-1/ B-2 visitors).

Required Documents/ Evidence (for paper application)

1. Fee of \$370 payable to "DHS" by check or money order
2. Original Form I-539 Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status (can be downloaded from <http://www.uscis.gov>)
3. Photocopy of SEVIS Form I-20 (from Las Positas College when you have been admitted)
4. Proof of payment of I-901 SEVIS fee (\$200)
5. Photocopy of passport showing validity date, biographical page, and nonimmigrant visa page
6. Photocopy of Form I-94

7. Original and current financial support documents (same information used to obtain the I-20 from Las Positas College)
8. Personal statement (required for B-2 visitors, recommended for other status). A strong letter explaining why you want to change your status to F-1 helps to convince USCIS of your intent to be a student as well as persuade USCIS that you did not have a pre-conceived intention to study in the U.S.
9. Dependent family member documentation (if applicable)