

**CHANGE OF STATUS  
F-1 TO J-1**

In order to be able to change your status in the U.S.\*\* from a student on F-1 to J-1, you will need to be admitted to a full-time academic program at a school which can issue you a Form DS-2019.

A. You will need a VALID reason for requesting the change to J-1 status, such as:

1. An offer of a graduate assistantship by the school you will attend.
2. A written request from your sponsor requesting you to change to F-1 or J-1 status.

**NOTE: Federal Regulations do not allow schools to issue a DS-2019 form to students who ONLY have family/personal funds.**

B. Your request to the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for the change to J-1 status should consist of the following:

- Form I-539** <<http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-539.pdf>>
- Check payable to “**Department of Homeland Security**” (no abbreviations) for \$200.00.
- Proof of payment of \$100.00 SEVIS fee. For more information visit [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com)
- Letter from you to USCIS containing the following:
  - Your address, telephone number and date
  - Your request to change from F-1 status to J-1 status. This request should state that you will be a full-time student and the reason that you are requesting the change (see section “A” above).
  - If you are requesting “J” status, you must state that you are aware that you may be subject to the two-year home country residency requirement if your study field is on your country’s skills list or if your receive funding from your government or the U.S. government.
- Form DS-2019**
- A **Copy** of your Passport pages showing **both** the picture and expiration date
- A **Copy** of your U.S. visa page
- A **Copy** of your **SEVIS I-20**
- A **Copy** of the front and back of the **I-94** (the little white card normally put in your passport). If you have dependents, then you must also include copies of the front and back of their I-94 card/s.
- Financial proof.
  - Copy of the letter offering the assistantship.
  - Bank statement showing financial proof.

Set an appointment with an Advisor at OISS and bring all the items listed above.

OISS will:

- Review and organize your application.
- Have the student mail the request by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested to USCIS.

*\*\*If you are traveling outside the U.S., you can do the change of status on re-entry if you take the DS-2019 with you and obtain a J-1 visa from a U.S. Embassy or Consulate in your passport. Then you obtain your J-1 student status at the port-of-entry to the U.S.*

CERTIFIED MAIL	EXPRESS MAIL:
U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Nebraska Service Center PO Box 87539 Lincoln NE, 68501-7539	U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Nebraska Service Center 850 S Street Lincoln NE, 68501-7539  Contact Person: Mr. Terry Way 402-323-7830