

CHANGE OF STATUS SPOUSE TO STUDENT (F-2 to F-1 OR J-2* to J-1)

In order to be able to change your status in the U.S.* from a spouse (F-2 or J-2) to a student (F-1 or J-1,) you will need to be officially accepted to a full-time academic program at a school that can issue you a SEVIS I-20 or DS-2019. Your F-1 or J-1 spouse must be in the U.S. in a valid status when you are requesting this change in the U.S.

As an F-2 or J-2 visa holder, you can take classes for recreational, hobby or cultural purposes without applying for a change of status. An F-2 or J-2 may not begin their studies until the change of status is approved.

Your request to the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services should consist of the following:

- Completed form **I-539** <<http://www.uscis.gov/graphics/formsfee/forms/files/i-539.pdf>>
- Check payable to the **Department of Homeland Security** (no abbreviations) for \$200.00. (Filing fee subject to change. Please check www.immigration.gov/graphics/formsfee/forms/index.htm for updates.)
- Proof of payment of \$100.00 SEVIS fee. For more information visit www.fmjfee.com
- Letter from you to the U. S. Citizenship & Immigration Services containing the following:
 - Your address, telephone number and date
 - Your request to change from F-2 or J-2 status to F-1 or J-1 status. This request should state that you will be a full-time student and that you are requesting the change
 - 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.
- Original** SEVIS I-20 signed and dated **or** DS-2019 with your signature
- A **copy** of your passport pages showing **both** the picture and expiration date
- A **copy** of your U.S. visa page
- A **copy** of the front and back of the **I-94 card** (the little white card normally put in your passport)
- Verification of source and amount of financial support
 - A **copy** of the letter offering the assistantship
 - Bank statement showing financial proof
- Copies of your spouse's** VALID immigration forms:
 - The front and back of the I-94 card
 - SEVIS I-20 or DS-2019
 - Passport pages showing **both** the picture and expiration date
 - U.S. visa page

Make an appointment with an adviser at OISS and bring all the items listed above.

OISS will:

- Review and organize your application.
- Have you mail the request by certified mail with the return receipt requested to the U. S. Citizenship & Immigration Services.

*** If you are traveling outside the U.S., you can take the SEVIS I-20 or DS-2019 and acquire an F-1 or J-1 visa stamp in your passport from a U.S. embassy or consulate and use visa stamp and the SEVIS I-20 or DS-2019 to enter the U.S.*