

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

In order to be able to change your status in the U.S.\* from a spouse, J-2, to a student, F-1, you will need to be officially accepted to a full-time academic program at a school which can issue you a Form I-20 or Form 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. **If you are subject to the two-year home residency requirement, a change of status cannot be requested in the U.S. If you are not sure if you are subject, please contact the Office for International Students and Scholars.**

A. As a J-2 visa holder, you can take classes for recreational, hobby or cultural purposes without applying for a change of status.

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

- Completed Form [I-539](http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-539.pdf) (<http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-539.pdf>)
- Check payable to “**Department of Homeland Security**” (no abbreviations) for \$300.00.  
(Filing fee subject to change. Please check <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-539.pdf> for updates.)
- Letter from you to USCIS containing the following:
  - Your address, telephone number and date.
  - Your request to change from J-2 status to F-1 status. This request should state that you will be a full time student and the reason that you are requesting the change.
- Original SEVIS I-20 signed and dated.
- A **Copy** of your Passport pages showing **both** the picture and expiration date.
- A **Copy** of your U.S. visa page.
- 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.
  - Copy of the letter offering the assistantship.
  - Bank statement showing financial proof.
- Copies** of your spouse’s VALID Immigration forms:
  - I-94 (front and back)
  - SEVIS DS-2019
  - Passport pages showing **both** the picture and expiration date
  - U.S. visa page

Set up 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.

\*\*You cannot leave the U.S. while a change of status is pending or you abandon the application.

\*\*If you are traveling outside the U.S., you can do the change of status on re-entry if you take the SEVIS I-20 or DS-2019 with you and obtain an F-1 visa in your passport then you can enter the U.S. as an F-1 student.