



CHANGE OF STATUS vs. RE-ENTRY

Change of Status through USCIS		Re-entry
Cost:	\$370 USCIS Processing Fee \$200 SEVIS Fee	Plane ticket to home country Visa application fees SEVIS fee
Processing Time:	Processing Times may vary Currently, a decision is made between 3-8 months	Length of time is dependent on how long it takes to travel and obtain a new visa. Visa processing without delays can take as short as 7 days. However, with additional security checks and delays, this process could take up to 3 months.
Concerns:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visitors in B-1/B-2 statuses cannot study until the status change is approved.• F-2 Dependents can study on a part-time basis.• Individuals cannot work until the status change is approved if previous status does not grant work authorization.• J-1 visa holders that are subject to the two year home return requirement are not eligible to change their status within the U.S.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• While you may travel to Canada or Mexico to obtain a new F-1 visa, this process can be extremely difficult if you are not a legal resident.• If you are denied a visa in one of these countries, you may need to return to your home country and re-apply for a new F-1 visa.
Note:	This process does not change your visa stamp. If you travel after your application is approved, you will need to apply for a new visa stamp that reflects your new status, outside of the U.S.	You will need to re-enter no more than 30 days before the program start date on your Form I-20 or DS-2019. If you need to delay your re-entry to the U.S., contact the ISSS office immediately.