Tel: 214-768-4475 Fax: 214-768-1051 Email: isss@smu.edu

CHANGE OF STATUS ELIS vs. RE-ENTRY

Change of Status through ELIS

Re-entry

Cost:	\$290 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 2-4 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:	Visitors in B-1/B-2 statuses and F-2 dependents cannot study until the status change is approved. 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.	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 reapply 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 reenter 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.