

PROGRAM EXTENSION

International Student and Scholar Services

Florida International University

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In accordance to 8 CFR 214.2(f)(7)(i), an "F-1 student who is maintaining valid status and making normal progress toward completing his or her educational objective" is eligible to request a program extension to remain in the U.S. and continue studying beyond the program end date originally noted on his or her Form I-20 (under item #5: "**complete studies not later than** _____") if the student is unable to complete the program by that date.

Per ISSS policy, a request for extension must be made AND granted **within the 120 days PRIOR to the original program end date.**

A student will **not** be eligible for a program extension under any of the following conditions:

- The student is out of status for any reason.
- The student is unable to complete his or her program by the completion date on his or her I-20 due to academic reasons (low GPA resulting in dismissal from the university).
- The student has completed all degree requirements and is requesting an extension to take additional courses that are not part of the academic program indicated on his or her I-20.

If you are unsure about your eligibility for an extension or you have questions about the required documentation needed to process your extension, please make an appointment with an ISSS advisor.

To request a new I-20 to extend your program, you must submit to ISSS:

- _____ 1. **ISSS Document Request Form** (indicate that you will apply for a **PROGRAM EXTENSION** on page **2 of the form**). Please note the processing of your I-20 may take up to 5 business days.
- _____ 2. **ISSS Academic Certification Form** completed by your academic advisor to help ISSS determine your eligibility for extension and your new completion date
- _____ 3. **Proof of Funds** to show sufficient money to cover tuition, school fees and ALL other expenses for the duration of the extension period. Valid documents to prove funds:
 - MUST BE IN ENGLISH
 - MUST SPECIFICALLY STATE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY AVAILABLE to you in US dollars
 - MAY INCLUDE:
 - (1) current bank letter and (if not your own account) signed letter from sponsor
 - (2) current scholarship letter from sponsoring agency or organization
 - (3) official and current letter verifying educational loan awarded to you
 - (4) ISSS Graduate Stipend form completed by department and signed by the Dean

An ISSS advisor will review your documents and, ***if all is in order***, will grant the extension by updating your SEVIS record and issuing a new Form I-20 reflecting the new program end date.

IMPORTANT:

Failure to process a program extension PRIOR to the program end date on your current I-20 will put you OUT OF STATUS and NOT ELIGIBLE for F-1 benefits (i.e. on-campus employment, CPT or OPT). If eligible, you may apply for Reinstatement to F-1 status. If you are in this situation, please make an appointment with an ISSS advisor to be advised appropriately.