

# RESTART F-1 STATUS

## International Student and Scholar Services

### Florida International University

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If you violate any of the immigration regulations under the F-1 (Student) non-immigrant visa classification, you will automatically be **OUT OF STATUS** and not eligible for any benefits (i.e., on-campus employment, practical training). Students who are out of status initially have two options to regain their F-1 status: apply for reinstatement through USCIS or **RESTART F-1 STATUS** through travel and reentry.

Under 8 CFR 214.2(f)(16)(i), any F-1 student who has been *out of status more than 5 months will not be eligible to request reinstatement*. If you fall under this situation, you will only have one option to regain your F-1 status: travel abroad and be admitted into the U.S. with an initial nonimmigrant status entry. At reentry, you **MUST** process a new Form I-20 and you will be issued a new Form I-94.

Make an appointment with an ISSS advisor to discuss your case, to understand clearly why you are out of status, and to review your options. **NOTE:** Not knowing that you violated immigration regulations **DOES NOT** negate the violation.

**To request a new I-20 to RESTART F-1 STATUS, you must submit to ISSS:**

1. **ISSS Document Request Form** (indicate that you will **RESTART F-1 STATUS on page 2 of the form**). The SEVIS I-20 will be issued for **INITIAL ATTENDANCE** to reflect that your F-1 status restarts at reentry. As part of this process, a new SEVIS record will be created for you and you will be assigned a new SEVIS ID number. Please note that processing of your I-20 request may take 5 business days.
  - When specifying your DEPARTURE and REENTRY dates on the Document Request Form, note that your I-20 will be issued to restart your status in the following term, and you must travel and reenter the U.S. no more than the 30 days before the start date of that term.
2. **Proof of Funds** to show sufficient money to cover tuition, school fees and ALL other expenses for at least one academic year. 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

The ISSS advisor will review your documents and ***if all is in order***, will issue the new Form I-20.

### **SEVIS FEE:**

After receiving your new I-20 you must pay the SEVIS I-901 FEE for the new SEVIS ID Number listed on the new I-20 (see SEVIS Fee information sheet). The fee must be paid before applying for a new F-1 visa stamp (if needed) OR before reentering the U.S. with your new I-20 if you have a valid visa.

### **IMPORTANT REMINDERS:**

- The process outlined above (travel abroad and reentry) will restart your F-1 status. Therefore, you will **NOT** be eligible for Curricular Practical Training or Optional Practical Training until you have been enrolled full-time for two semesters after your reentry.
- Students who are out-of-status are **NOT** eligible for automatic visa revalidation.