



## CHANGE OF NONIMMIGRANT STATUS TO F-1

*Those individuals who wish to change their status should be aware of the consequences of such change. USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services) can take several months to adjudicate the change of status application. During this time, students will be unable to travel outside the United States. Leaving the U.S. will void the F-1 application. Students will also be ineligible for employment and practical training until the USCIS approval is received and the required enrollment periods have passed.*

**B-1 and B-2 (Visitors for Business or Pleasure)** visa holders must wait for approval before they enroll in courses. If students travel and intend to re-enter the United States after F-1 status is approved, they must apply for an F-1 visa at home.

Applicants must maintain valid nonimmigrant status during the adjudication period. Previous status may not expire more than 30 days prior to the I-20 start date.

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⇒ **Step 1:** Apply and be accepted to Fullerton College

- Complete the steps to apply as an F-1 student. Submit the *International F-1 Student Application*, and other required documents to the International Student Center.

⇒ **Step 2:** Upon acceptance to Fullerton College, you will be issued an I-20. You may choose one of the following options afterward:

- Option 1:** Hire an immigration lawyer to assist you with filing the change of status application.
- Option 2:** File the request with USCIS **on your own** before your authorized stay expires (at least 45 days before your stay expires)

Go to the following website online to access and read the **Form I-539**, filing instructions, and other useful information:

[www.uscis.gov/i-539](http://www.uscis.gov/i-539)

\*You may also view additional information at:

<https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/change-of-status>

⇒ **Step 3:** Please submit a copy of the approval notification and I-94 from USCIS to the International Student Center.