
INSTRUCTIONS

If you fail to maintain your F-1 student status, you are ineligible for any of the benefits of F-1 status (e.g. employment authorization). There are two ways to regain F-1 status: apply for reinstatement or depart the U.S. and seek a [new admission to the U.S. in F-1 status](#). The nearest land border to Kingsville is located in Brownsville, TX and you may find directions and contact information for the [Brownsville Port-of-Entry](#).

The process to regain valid F-1 status can be challenging. We would like to discuss your options and encourage you to contact [an immigration attorney](#) so you can make an informed decision and consider the risks with both options.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Under federal USCIS regulation 8 CFR 214.2(f)(16), an F-1 student is only [eligible for reinstatement](#) if **all of the following conditions** apply:

- Have not been out of status more than 5 months at the time of filing the request for reinstatement (or demonstrate that the failure to file within the 5-month period was the result of exceptional circumstances and that you filed for reinstatement as soon as possible under these circumstances).
- Do not have a record of repeated or willful violations of immigration regulations.
- Are currently pursuing, or intending to pursue, a full course of study in the immediate future at the school that issued the Form I-20.
- Have not engaged in unauthorized employment.
- Are not deportable on any ground other than overstaying or failing to maintain status.
- The violation of status resulted from circumstances beyond your control. Such circumstances might include serious injury or illness, a natural disaster, or inadvertence, oversight, or neglect on the part of your OISSS adviser, but do not include instances where a pattern of repeated violations or a willful failure on your part resulted in the need for reinstatement. or
- The violation relates to a reduction in your course load that would have been within the international student adviser's authority to authorize, and that failure to approve reinstatement would result in extreme hardship to you.

PROCEDURE

1. [Schedule an appointment](#) with an adviser at OISSS to discuss your options to regain F-1 status. At the appointment, the OISSS adviser will review your eligibility for F-1 reinstatement and will discuss the application process.
2. A copy of receipt of [Reinstatement Processing Fee](#).
3. Class Registration indicating a full-time enrollment
4. A draft of [your cover letter](#) to USCIS
5. USCIS [form I-539](#) (write "REINSTATEMENT" at the top of the form).
6. I-539 [Application Fee](#), payable to the US Department of Homeland Security.
7. A cover letter from you requesting reinstatement to F-1 status and explaining your circumstances. You should explain that the violation of F-1 status resulted from circumstances beyond your control and/or that the failure to be reinstated would result in extreme hardship. Attach any additional supporting documents.
8. A new SEVIS I-20 issued by OISSS for purposes of reinstatement (signed by you and an OISSS advisor)
9. A photocopy of your previous I-20 form(s)
10. A photocopy of your financial support documents to show evidence of continued funding—documents should be recent (no more than 12 months old)
11. A photocopy of your passport photo page—include any other pages that contain the expiration date, extensions, or any biographical information. Your passport should be valid for at least 6 months into the future.
12. A photocopy of your most recent US Entry Visa
13. Your original Form I-94 card (if issued paper I-94) or [Form I-94](#) printout. (be sure to copy front and back of paper I-94 clearly showing the red USCIS stamp for your records)
14. A photocopy of your transcript and course registration from TAMUK.
15. Completed [G-1145 Form](#), E-Notification of Application/Petition Acceptance (optional; it signs you up for email/text message notification of your application's arrival at USCIS)
16. Keep a copy of your entire application for your records. You may file [online](#) or mail in. If you choose the paper application option, it is recommended that you send your application by certified mail, return receipt requested.
17. Mail items 5 to 17 to USCIS. Be sure to use correct [filing address](#).

I have read the above information and decided to apply for reinstatement without leaving this country or depart the U.S. If I have any questions in the future, I will contact the OISSS or visit the OISSS website for clarification.

Name: _____; KID No. _____; SEVIS ID No Noo _____

Email Address: _____; Signature: _____; Date: _____

