

Reinstatement to F1 Student Status

UPDATE: USCIS to Publish Revised Form I-539 and New Form I-539A on March 8, 2019

We have revised [Form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status](#) and will publish the revised form on our website on March 8, 2019. We will be removing the 12/23/16 version of Form I-539 from uscis.gov on March 8 but will be allowing for a two-week grace period, until close of business on March 21, for that version to be **received** by USCIS. Starting on March 22, we will only accept the revised Form I-539 with an edition date of 02/04/19. **We will reject any Form I-539 with an edition date of 12/23/16, or earlier, that is received by USCIS after March 21.**

We will also be publishing a new Form I-539A, Supplemental Information for Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status, on the Form I-539 webpage on March 8. Form I-539A replaces the Supplement A provided in previous versions of Form I-539. Form I-539A can only be submitted with Form I-539; it cannot be filed as a standalone form.

As previously announced, the revised Form I-539 includes the following significant changes:

- Every co-applicant included on the primary applicant's Form I-539 must submit and sign a separate Form I-539A, which will be available on the Form I-539 webpage on March 8. Parents or guardians may sign on behalf of children under 14 or any co-applicant who is not mentally competent to sign.
- Every applicant and co-applicant must pay an \$85 biometric services fee, except certain A, G, and NATO nonimmigrants as noted in the new Form I-539 Instructions to be published on March 8.
- Every applicant and co-applicant will receive a biometric services appointment notice, regardless of age, containing their individual receipt number. The biometric services appointments will be scheduled at the Application Support Center (ASC) closest to the primary applicant's address. Co-applicants who wish to be scheduled at a different ASC location should file a separate Form I-539.

USCIS will reject any revised Form I-539 that is missing any of the required signatures or biometrics fees, including those required for Form I-539A.

Filing Fee

\$370. You and each co-applicant must also pay an \$85 biometric services fee.

When you send a payment, you agree to pay for a government service. Filing and biometric service fees are final and non-refundable, regardless of any action we take on your application, petition, or request, or if you withdraw your request.

<https://www.uscis.gov/i-539>

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS APPLYING FOR REINSTATEMENT TO F-1 STATUS:

Name: _____ Date: _____

CUNY EMPLID: _____ SEVIS#: N_____

A student who has failed to maintain F-1 student status and who wishes to remain in or transfer to LaGuardia, must apply for and be granted reinstatement to F-1 student status by the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Service (USCIS). Maintaining F-1 student status means that you have been a full-time student and have not overstayed the authorized period of stay as identified on your I-20 form. If you have taken less than a full course of study, not extended your I-20 or not completed the F-1 transfer procedure, you are likely out of status and must apply for reinstatement before you can be granted any additional benefits from the USCIS (e.g. authorization to accept optional practical training.)

In order to apply for reinstatement **your application must include** the following documents:

- A completed I-539 form with the **\$370.00 filing fee and \$85.00 biometrics fee. Total of \$455.00.** (Make the check or money order payable to **U.S. Department of Homeland Security**)
- An I-797 Receipt Letter indicating payment of **\$350 SEVIS fee**, only **if you have been out of status for more than 5 months**. You can pay this fee online at www.FMJfee.com, and bring the online receipt to our office along with the other documents.
- A newly obtained **I-20 form** issued for reinstatement by ISS at LaGuardia Community College.
- New **financial documents** (Bank statement & Income statement) showing evidence of your ability to pay for your studies and support yourself and your dependents.
- I-94 (Print from (<https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home>) **(if you have I-94 in small card please copy Front and Back)**)
- **Copy of ALL** your previous I-20s (From LaGuardia, previous school including ESL programs)
- **Copy** of your **F-1 Visa** page showing legal name, birth date, expiration date, visa status
- **Copy** of the photo page of valid **passport** showing full legal name, birth date, passport expiration date.
- Official transcripts from LaGuardia and previous school attended in the US. They have to stay in a sealed envelope from the issuing school.
- Evidence of **home country address** where student reside (ownership of house, lease, official letter, etc)
- A **written statement** requesting reinstatement which explains that the violation of student status resulted from circumstances beyond your control and/or that the failure to be reinstated would result in extreme hardship. Any documentation that supports your claim should be attached.
- A **written statement** from your ISS advisor recommending reinstatement.

ISS will review your letter before you submit the application. As with all USCIS applications, you should keep copies of all documents submitted. A decision to reinstate an individual to F-1 student status is completely at the discretion of the USCIS. If the application is approved, USCIS will send you a notification and you will need to submit it to your DSO to request a new continue attendance I20. F-2 dependent status will automatically be reinstated with the reinstatement of the F-1 student.

For U.S. Postal Service (USPS):

**USCIS
P.O. Box 660166
Dallas, TX 75266**

For FedEx, UPS, and DHL deliveries:

**USCIS
ATTN: I-539
2501 S. State Highway 121 Business
Suite 400
Lewisville, TX 75067**

