



Applying For Reinstatement

If an international student fails to [maintain their status](#), or if there is some question as to whether they have, and their designated school official (DSO) terminates their Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) record, the student must file for reinstatement with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) or depart the United States immediately.

In general, to be eligible for reinstatement, the student must:

- Not be out of status for more than five months at the time of filing or show the exceptional circumstance that prevented filing in that time frame.
- Not have a record of repeated or willful violations of regulations.
- Not have worked without authorization.
- Be pursuing or intend to pursue a full course of study in the immediate future at your school.
- Not be deportable for any reason other than failing to maintain F-1 or M-1 status.
- Be able to show that:
 - Circumstances beyond the student’s control caused the status violation.
 - Student fell below a full course load for a reason the DSO could have used to authorize a reduced course load, and the student would experience extreme hardship, if the student fails to get reinstatement.

Reinstatement Process:

Step	Player	Action
1	DSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommends reinstatement in SEVIS. • Prints and signs the Form I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status, issued for reinstatement.
2	Student	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs Form I-20 issued for reinstatement. • Completes and mails Form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status, to USCIS with fee and supporting documents.

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		<p>Note: The Form I-539, Instructions for Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status, lists the required documents to submit with the Form I-539.</p> <p>Filing Fee: \$370 (Subject to change – check www.uscis.gov/i-539)</p> <p>Note: If the student has been out of status for more than five months, he or she must also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay the SEVIS I-901 fee again. • Explain why the reinstatement application could not be filed sooner.
3	USCIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepts/rejects the application. • Makes a decision and mails it to the student. <p>Note: USCIS may request additional information. USCIS will send all correspondence related to the application to the mailing address on the Form I-539.</p>
3a	SEVIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEVIS automatically emails the decision to the DSO who requested the reinstatement and to the PDSO. • If approved for reinstatement to a continuing program, SEVIS changes the status of the record to Active.
4	Student	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If approved for reinstatement to a new program, the student enrolls for the program, as indicated on the Form I-20. • If approved for reinstatement to a continuing program, the student resumes a full course of study, if he or she has not already done so. • If denied, the student follows the instructions in the denial notice.
4a	DSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If approved for reinstatement to a new program, the DSO must follow the registration processes for the initial session at the school. • If approved for reinstatement to a continuing program, the DSO must register the student within 30 days and make sure the session dates are correct. <p>Note: SEVIS will terminate the record for failure to enroll, if the Initial or Next Session Start Date is past the regulatory deadline.</p>
4b	SEVIS	If denied, SEVIS closes the reinstatement request.

Reference:

- <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/sevis-help-hub/student-records/certificates-of-eligibility/reinstatement-coe-form-i-20>
- <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2016/07/how-should-f-or-m-student-file-reinstatement>