



Change of Status to F-1

Students who wish to change their current non-immigrant status to F-1 (e.g. F-2, B-2, J-1) may do so if they have maintained lawful nonimmigrant status up to the time the Change of Status application is filed.

The International Student & Scholar Office will assist you in preparing the documents for a Change of Status to F-1.

Visa Type: B-1/B-2

B-1/B-2 visa holders are prohibited from enrolling in a course of study until a change to F-1 status is granted by Immigration. A nonimmigrant B-2 visa holder who begins a course of study prior to the approval of a change of status is considered to have violated a condition of their immigration status. It should be noted that this immigration regulation prohibits B non-immigrants from taking a full course of studies in **any** academic program. There are special instructions for B-1/B-2 visitors who want to enroll in school. Please download and read [instructions](#).

The decision to approve or deny an application for Change of Status is made by the United States Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS). Lehman College is not responsible for USCIS decisions or any inconveniences they may cause. If USCIS denies a Change of Status application, the student will be served with a notice of voluntary departure requesting that they leave the USA.

Visa Type: F-2

F-2 nonimmigrants are permitted to enroll in less than a “full course of study,” (that is, part-time) as defined at 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(i)(A) through (D) and 8 CFR 214.2(m)(9)(i)– (iv), at an SEVP-certified school. An F-2 non-immigrant who begins a course of study part-time will not be eligible for all F-1 benefits, including employment opportunities. F-2 students must apply and be approved for a Change of Status to F-1 in order to enroll of a full course of study and be eligible for F-1 benefits.

A CHANGE OF STATUS IS **NOT** A VISA. **You cannot get a student visa in the USA.** If F-1 status is approved by USCIS, the next time you depart the USA, you must apply for an F-1 visa in your home country to reenter. It can take several months for Immigration to make a decision on your approval or denial of your change of status application.

Visa Type: A and G

A and G visa statuses must first complete a Form I-566 and get approval from the Department of State before a change of status application can be sent to USCIS.

If you are denied, you will be served with a notice of voluntary departure requesting you depart the U.S. Lehman College is not responsible for the decision of USCIS or any inconveniences it may cause. It can take several months for a decision to be made on your Change of Status.

Application Process

- Complete form [I-539](#). See [instructions](#) for Form I-539.
- Lehman College SEVIS I-20 issued for Change of Status.
- A letter to USCIS explaining why you why you entered the USA in your current status; why you now wish to change to F-1; and why studying at Lehman College will help you academically or professionally in the future.
- Copy of your financial documents.
- Check or Money Order for \$370 payable to **U.S. Department of Homeland Security**.
- Original I-94.
- Copy of valid passport. Copy of F-1 visa.
- If you are on a dependent visa, provide copies of all the visa holder's documents: passport, visa, I-94, I-20, or if H-1/ a letter of employment.

Mail the following documents to USCIS:

- 1. Completed form [I-539](#)**
- 2. Lehman College [I-20](#)**
- 3. Check or Money Order \$370.00 payable to U.S. Department of Homeland Security.**
- 4. Original I-94.**
- 5. Copy of receipt for SEVIS fee payment**
- 6. Copy of I-94 card, visa, and passport (also copies of the visa holder); and dependents**
- 7. Financial documents**
- 8. Letter explaining why you want to change your status to F-1**
- 9. A & G visas must enclose completed I-566 signed by State Dept. recommending the Change of Status**

*Make copies of all documents before mailing

Send CERTIFIED mail to:

**USCIS/Vermont Processing Center
Attn: I-539
75 Lower Welden Street
St. Albans, VT 05479**