

Change of Status from F-2 to F-1*

*F-2 visa holders cannot attend school full-time while the change of status is pending.

| Item Required | Notes |
|--|---|
| Form I-539 | Available at: https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/files/form/i-539.pdf Download and save the form before typing in the fields. |
| \$290.00 check or money order | Pay to must be made out exactly as written here: U.S. Department of Homeland Security <i>Do not abbreviate as USDHS or DHS. Your check will be denied and your application will be returned.</i> |
| I-901 SEVIS Fee Receipt | Go to www.fmjfee.com |
| New Form I-20 | This will be issued by CESL |
| I-94 Record printout | Accessible at www.cbp.gov/i94 |
| Financial Statement | -Statement must cover one full year of tuition, fees, living expenses. -Statement must be current within the last 6 months. |
| Valid Passport for you and your spouse | Passport from your home country <i>(we will make a copy to send with your application)</i> |
| U.S. Visa stamp for you and your spouse | Valid F-2 and F-1 visa stamps from both your passports <i>(we will make a copy to send with your application)</i> |
| Previous I-797 Notice of Approvals | Receipt Notice from USCIS (if applicable) |
| Letter of Explanation | Letter should include: -Your current U.S. address and Phone number -Your request for change of status from F-2 to F-1 -The reason for your request |
| Form G-1145 | Available at: https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/files/form/g-1145.pdf Used by USCIS to notify you of application status |

Once you have completed the Form I-539 and the Letter of Explanation please email them to CESL Advisor, Jennifer D'Costa at jendc@siu.edu

Jennifer will respond with possible appointment times for you to meet with her and complete your application and obtain your I-20. You will be advised on the remainder of the process in your appointment.

Please email Jennifer with any questions.