**Change of Status**

In order to change status from another non-immigrant status to F-1 status the following must be determined:

• Whether the individual is eligible for F1 status
• Whether the individual is eligible for a change of status in general.

**Restrictions on changing to F-1 status**

Certain non-immigrants are not permitted to change status to F1 while in the USA. However they still may be eligible for F1 status, but the only option to obtain F1 status would be to obtain the I-20; apply for the F-1 entry visa at a US Consulate or Embassy abroad, and re-enter the USA in F-1 status.

The following non-immigrants cannot change to F1 status in the USA:
• M1 students.
• C, D, and K non-immigrants.
• J-1 physicians admitted to receive graduate medical education or training.
• J non-immigrants subject to the 212(e) 2 year foreign residence requirement.
• WT and WB visitors admitted under the Visa Waiver Program.

An applicant for change of status to F-1 may start attending on full time basis school before the change of status application has been submitted or approved, Except for the following:
• Individuals in B-1 or B-2 status.
• Individuals in F-2 dependent status (except for F-2 minors studying at the Primary or secondary educational level).

**List of documents needed to apply for Change of Status:**

1. Letter from student explaining why they wish to change to F-1 status
2. Form I-539 and I-539 fee of $300 (make personal check or money order payable to: DHS/USCIS
3. I-20 requesting change of status
4. Copies of financial documents (we will use bank statement and affidavit of support used for issuance of I-20)
5. Copy of your passport, entry visa and I-94 card
6. Copy of the principal visa holder’s passport, entry visa and I-94 card (if applicable)
7. Copy of Pratt admission/acceptance letter
8. Copy of all transcripts (if you’ve attended other schools in the USA)
9. Copy of Registration and Bursar’s receipt for the current semester
10. Proof of payment SEVIS fee

Receipt or proof of payment of the mandatory SEVIS Fee
As of September 1, 2004, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) collects the mandated SEVIS fee. Applicants who require an F1 or J1 visa to enter the United States must complete form I-901 and pay the SEVIS fee before going to the U.S. Embassy or consulate for their visa interviews. Applicants who are citizens of Canada, Bermuda, Bahamas and residents of certain other islands wishing to apply for F1 or J1 status at a Port of Entry into the United States must pay the SEVIS fee before appearing at the Port of Entry. For further details regarding the form I-901 and how to pay the fee go to: www.fmjfee.com. We suggest that you complete form I-901 and pay the SEVIS fee online at least 3 days before your interview or approaching the port of entry.

**Disclaimer Note:** Above is an extremely basic list of documents needed to apply for change to F-1 status. It’s imperative that you make an appointment with an OIA advisor in order to ascertain which documents you will need to submit to DHS based upon your current non-immigrant status.