

Program Extension

What is a Program Extension?

A program extension is when the end date on your I-20 is extended to a future completion date. Your SEVIS I-20 has a completion date by which the government recognizes you will complete your studies. If you will not complete your program by this date, you must request an extension by submitting all the appropriate documents **at least two weeks before your SEVIS I-20 expires** at the Office of International Affairs (OIA).

How can I tell what my expected date of completion is?

You can find your expected date of completion on your most recent I-20 in the Program of Study box under the Program End Date.

What criteria must I meet to apply for a Program Extension?

You must be *maintaining F-1 status* and be *in good academic standing*.

You are eligible for an extension if the delay in your completion of study is “caused by compelling academic or medial reasons”, such as:

- Change of major
- Change of research topic(s)
- Unexpected research problems
- Documented illness or learning disabilities

Delays in your completion of study caused by academic probation or suspension are not valid reasons for a program extension. [8 CFR § 214.2 (f) (7) (iii)].

You cannot request a program extension for a minor.

What is the deadline to request a Program Extension?

The deadline to request a program extension is two weeks before the expected date of completion on your I-20 (the Program End Date).

What happens if I request a Program Extension after my I-20 has expired?

If your Program End Date has expired you are considered out of status. To regain F-1 status, you will need to file for reinstatement to F-1 status with USCIS, for which you will have to pay a substantial fee and wait for adjudication, often up to one (1) year. This often jeopardizes your eligibility for OPT.

Please contact the OIA immediately when you realize your I-20 has expired and you still have classes remaining.

An email will be sent to all students whose I-20 will expire soon as a courtesy reminder. Please check your Pratt email.

How do I apply for a Program Extension?

1. Register full-time for the following semester unless otherwise instructed.
2. Obtain a copy of your Degree Audit from the Registrar's Office (Myrtle Hall, 6th Floor) or print a copy from your MyPratt portal. You must have an updated degree audit to bring to the OIA. If there are still classes that must be substituted or waived, please ask your advisor to update the degree audit with the Registrar.
3. Write a statement that explains the reason(s) (in detail) you are not able to complete the program by the end date on the I-20, the end date you are expected to finish and what happened.
 - Include any documentation, like a letter from Pratt's Health & Counseling Services.
 - We will contact your academic department if we require clarification.
4. New financial statements
 - Proof of funding for this amount: \$_____
 - i. Please come and ask an advisor in OIA for clarification on what amount you must demonstrate.
 - ii. Funding must be demonstrated through liquid funds, whether they are yours, a sponsor's, or some combination. That means the funds must be available without significant movement in price and with minimum loss of value. Therefore, Life Insurance, a mortgage, proof of salary of sponsor, mutual funds or stocks are not acceptable.
 - An Affidavit of Support if you are not funding yourself (see example below)

Requirements for the Affidavit of Support:

1. Date not older than (3) three months
2. Original signature signed in blue ink

Date: (No older than 3 months)

To Whom It May Concern:

I, (enter sponsor's name), (relation to student), hereby certify that I am able and willing and do promise to support (enter student's name), for a minimum of *(enter dollar amount) USD for tuition, fees, and living expenses for each year of study at Pratt Institute. Evidence of my current financial resources is attached to this affidavit of support. I hereby affirm that I understand the contents of this affidavit and that the statements are accurate.

Sincerely,

(Sponsors signature)

Sponsor's name, (relation)
Address,
City, Country, Postal Code
Phone number
Email address

Original Document

After submitting items 1-4 to OIA, an advisor will review your request. Please be aware that Program Extensions are not processed on the spot. You will be emailed once a decision has been made.