F-1/J-1 PROGRAM EXTENSION

This handout is designed for students in F-1 and J-1 Status. It will provide you with a basic understanding of (1) the limitations placed by regulations of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) upon the length of time you may be enrolled in a program of study and (2) the procedures you must follow if you require additional time to complete program requirements.

**Duration of Status:** You have been admitted to the U.S. for “duration of status” which is defined as:
1. The time during which you are pursuing a full course of study and making normal progress toward completing that course, **---plus---**
2. The time you may be working in authorized “optional practical training” or “academic training” after you complete studies (if you qualify and are so authorized), **---plus---**
3. 30 days to depart the country for J visa holders; 60 days to depart the country for F visa holders.

The USCIS grants duration of status to F-1 and J-1 students by entering the notation “D/S” in the upper right corners of both the “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Student Status” (Form I-20 for F visa holders and Form DS-2019 for J visa holders).

**Limitations on Duration of Status:** The program end date on the most recent I-20 (item #5) or DS-2019 (item #3) you were issued is the date by which you are expected to complete the requirements for your current program. If you are unable to complete your program of study by that date, consult with your International Student Advisor at least 30 days before reaching the program end date. If you are eligible for extension of your time limit, your advisor will assist you to comply with extension requirements.

**Eligibility Requirements for Program Extension:** You may apply for an extension of your study program if:
1. You have not yet exceeded the time limitation placed upon your study by the expected program end date on your I-20 or DS-2019 ---and---
2. You have continuously maintained lawful F-1 or J-1 status ---and---
3. The delay in completing program requirements has been caused by compelling academic reasons (such as changes of major field or research topics, or unexpected research problems), or compelling and documented medical reasons. Delays in completing program requirements which are caused by academic probation or suspension (such as retaking courses) are not acceptable reasons for extension of a program of study.

If your completion of studies date has expired or if you do not meet the eligibility requirements to apply for program extension, you may need to apply for “reinstatement: to lawful F-1 status”. In this case, immediate consultation with your International Student Advisor is necessary.

**Student Financial Support:** F-1 Students - If your financial support has changed, please attach a copy of your graduate contract, endorsed bank letter, etc., to verify financial eligibility for I-20 issuance. If your financial support has not changed, it is not necessary to provide additional financial documentation.
J-1 Students – Proof of additional financial support is required in order to receive a program extension. Please speak with an International Student Advisor to discuss estimated expenses and acceptable financial support documents.
Academic Advisor’s Recommendation
For F-1/J-1 Program Extension

Student Name: ____________________________________________________________

PID: __________________________ Expiration date of current I-20/DS-2019: __________ (Month/Day/Year)

Academic Advisor: This form is provided to facilitate the communication of certain information required by regulations of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Its completion is needed for a student in F-1 status or J-1 status to be granted an extension of the time limitation placed by the USCIS on the student’s current program of study. Any questions you may have can be directed to the Office of International Student and Faculty Services at 593-4330.

1. Has this student been continuously enrolled for a full course of study? _____Yes_____No

2. This student will complete requirements for current program by the end of: ____________________ (Semester/Year)

3. Graduate Students only: This student will be enrolled in 1 credit hour at the graduate level to fulfill thesis/dissertation requirements: _____Yes_____No

4. This student has not yet completed the current program of study due to: (please check all reasons that apply)

  ___Delay caused by a change in the major field of study
  ___Delay caused by a change in research topic
  ___Delay caused by unexpected research problems
  ___Delay caused by documented medical problems
  ___Other (please provide a letter of explanation with this form)

I therefore recommend that this student be allowed additional time to complete his/her studies.

Academic advisor’s signature: ________________________________________________

Name and title (please print): ________________________________________________

Department (please print): _________________________________________________

Date: ______________________________________________________________________

For ISFS use only: SEVIS_____FSA_____PS_____ Advisor: _________________________

Revised June 2015

International Student and Faculty Services • Walter International Education Center
15 Park Place • Athens, OH 45701 • 740.593.4330 • 740.593.4328 (fax) • www.ohio.edu/isfs