

TABLE OF CHANGES – INSTRUCTIONS
Form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status and Supplemental Form
I-539A
OMB Number: 1615-0003
05/07/2026

Reason for Revision: Duration of Status Final Rule
Project Phase: OMB Review

Legend for Proposed Text:

- Black font = Current text
- Red font = Changes

Expires 03/31/2027

Edition Date 08/28/2024

Test Edition Date 10/31/2025

Current Page Number and Section	Current Text	Proposed Text
Page 1, What Is the Purpose of Form I-539?	[Page 1] What Is the Purpose of Form I-539? Use this application if you are one of the nonimmigrants listed below and wish to apply to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for an extension of stay or a change to another nonimmigrant status. In certain situations, you may use this application to apply for an initial nonimmigrant status. You may also use this application if you are a nonimmigrant F-1 or M-1 student applying for reinstatement. [new]	[Page 1] What Is the Purpose of Form I-539? Use this application if you are one of the nonimmigrants listed below and wish to apply to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for an extension of stay, a change to another nonimmigrant status, or reinstatement to F-1 or M-1 status. [no change] [deleted] You should select only one box in Part 2., Item Number 1. If you are applying to reinstate your F-1 status, and you will be unable to complete your program of study because your admit until date expires within 6 months of the date of reinstatement, you will also need to apply for an extension of stay on another Form I-539, and you will need to submit the required filing fee for each Form I-539. USCIS encourages you to file both Forms I-539 at the same time to avoid unnecessary adjudication delays if your

		reinstated authorized period of stay will expire within 6 months. If your application to reinstate student status is denied, your application for extension of stay will also be denied, and both fees will not be refunded.
Page 1, When Should I Use Form I-539?	[Page 1] When Should I Use Form I-539? If you are applying for an extension of stay or change of status, you generally must submit your application before your current authorized stay expires. Generally, even if USCIS approves your request, you must file a Form I-539 to “bridge” any gap between the expiration of your current status and start of the validity of your future status. If you are applying for J-1 or M-1 nonimmigrant status, see the specific instructions below about bridging status gaps. We suggest you file at least 45 days, but generally not more than 6 months, before your stay expires. Failure to file before the expiration date may be excused if you demonstrate when you file the application that:	[Page 1] When Should I Use Form I-539? [no change] We suggest you file at least 45 days, but generally not more than 6 months, before your stay expires. Failure to file before the expiration date may be excused if you demonstrate when you file the application that:
Page 2, When Should I Use Form I-539?	[Page 2] What Is the Purpose of Form I-539A ... [Page 3] F-1, Academic Student To request a change to F-1 status or to apply for reinstatement as an F-1 student, submit a copy of your Form I-94, and, if applicable a copy of the Form I-94 for each person included in the application.	[Page 2] What Is the Purpose of Form I-539A? ... [Page 4] F-1, Academic Student To request an extension of stay (including a request for additional time to pursue a different program/degree) or change to F-1 status or to apply for reinstatement as an F-1 student, submit a copy of your Form I-94, and, if applicable, a copy of the Form I-94 for each person included in the application.

	Include a copy of your Form I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status, issued by the school where you will study, and submit documentation demonstrating your ability to pay for your studies and support yourself, and any accompanying family members, while you are in the United States. NOTE: A change of status to F-1 nonimmigrant may be approved effective the day USCIS makes a final decision on your change of status application. You are not required to submit subsequent applications for an extension of stay or change of nonimmigrant status to “bridge” a gap in status up to 30 days before the program start date while your application is pending, provided your nonimmigrant status is unexpired at the time you filed the change of status to F-1 nonimmigrant and you otherwise remain eligible for approval. F-1 Extensions Only use this application to request an extension if you were admitted for a limited duration as a student entering to study at a public secondary school. All other students seeking information concerning extensions should contact their DSO. [new]	Your application must also include: 1. A copy of your valid, properly endorsed Form I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status, issued by the school where you are studying or will study; 2. All previously used Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) numbers; 3. Documentary proof that you have continuously maintained lawful status, such as previous Form I-94s and transcripts; and 4. Documentation demonstrating your ability to pay for your studies and support yourself, and any accompanying family members, while you are in the United States. NOTE: An alien who has completed a program in the United States at one educational level in F-1 status may not extend his or her stay in F-1 status (or change to F-1 status) through a program at the same educational level or a lower educational level. [no change] F-1 Extensions [delete] 1. Program Extension
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		In addition to submitting the evidence that must be included in all F-1 requests for an extension of stay, if you are requesting an extension of stay in connection with a program extension of the same program/degree, you must demonstrate that your request is due to: A. A compelling academic reason, such as a change of major or research topic or unexpected research problems. Unexpected research problems are those caused by an unexpected change in faculty advisor, need to refine an investigatory topic based on initial research, research funding delays, and similar issues. Delays including, but not limited to, those caused by academic probation or suspension or a student's repeated inability or unwillingness to complete his or her course of study are not acceptable reasons for an extension; B. A documented illness or medical condition that is a compelling medical reason, such as a serious injury, that is supported by medical documentation from a licensed medical doctor, a licensed doctor of osteopathy, a licensed psychologist, or a licensed clinical psychologist; or C. Circumstances beyond the student's control, including a natural disaster, national health crisis, or the closure of an institution. 2. Post-completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) and Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) OPT Extension If you were admitted for Duration of Status and need additional time to complete your request for post-completion optional practical training (OPT) and Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) OPT extension, you must apply for an extension of stay for an admission period to a fixed date. You may file Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, to request post-completion or STEM OPT after receiving the necessary recommendation from your Designated School Official.
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If you were admitted for a fixed period of time and need additional time to complete your request for post-completion optional practical training (OPT) and Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) OPT extension, you must apply for an extension of stay.

NOTE: If you are recommended for post-completion OPT or a STEM OPT extension and file your Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, in the manner designated by USCIS, with the required fee, before your period of admission expires, including the 60 day departure period, on or before [DHS WILL INSERT DATE SIX MONTHS PLUS 60 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION DATE IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER], you are not required to file a request for an extension of stay for the requested period of post-completion OPT or a STEM OPT extension.

3. Transferring to a Different School and Change in Educational Objectives

In addition to submitting the evidence that must be included in all F-1 requests for an extension of stay, if you are requesting an extension of stay because you transferred to a different school or changed educational objectives and the new program to which you transferred will not be completed within the authorized period of stay, then you must be able to begin or resume classes at the transfer school or program within five months of transferring out of your current school or within 5 months of the program completion date on your current Form I-20, whichever is earlier.

If USCIS authorizes you to engage in post-completion or STEM OPT, you must be able to begin or resume classes within 5 months of transferring out of the school that recommended the post-completion or STEM OPT or the date the post-completion or STEM OPT authorization ends, whichever is earlier. You will need to

	request an extension of stay if you transferred out of the school that recommended you for post-completion OPT or a STEM OPT extension and the new program to which you transferred will not be completed within the authorized period of stay. F-1 Reinstatement In addition to the above documents, submit evidence that your violation of status resulted from circumstances beyond your control or that your violation relates to a reduction in your course load that would have been within a Designated School Official's (DSO's) power to authorize, and that failure to approve reinstatement would result in extreme hardship to you. If you were out of status for more than five months at the time of filing your request for reinstatement, you must also provide evidence that your failure to file within the five-month period was the result of exceptional circumstances and that you filed your request for reinstatement as promptly as possible under these exceptional circumstances. F-1 Extensions G, Designated Principal Resident Representative of a Foreign Government and His or Her Immediate Family Members	F-1 Reinstatement In addition to the above documents, submit evidence that your violation of status resulted from circumstances beyond your control or that your violation relates to a reduction in your course load that would have been within a Designated School Official's (DSO's) power to authorize, and that failure to approve reinstatement would result in extreme hardship to you. If you were out of status for more than five months at the time of filing your request for reinstatement, you must also provide evidence that your failure to file within the five-month period was the result of exceptional circumstances and that you filed your request for reinstatement as promptly as possible under these exceptional circumstances. [deleted] In Part 2., Item Number 1., select 'Reinstatement to student status.' If you will be unable to complete your program of study because your admit until date expires within 6 months of the date of reinstatement, you will also need to apply for an extension of stay on another Form I-539, and you will need to submit the required filing fee for each Form I-539. USCIS encourages you to file both Forms I-539 at the same time to avoid unnecessary adjudication delays if your reinstated authorized period of stay will expire within 6 months. If your application to reinstate student status is denied, your application for extension of stay will also be denied, and both fees will not be refunded. G, Designated Principal Resident Representative of a Foreign Government and His or Her Immediate Family Members
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	Submit a copy, front and back, of Form I-94 for each person included in the application, and Form I-566, certified by Department of State (DOS) to indicate your accredited status. ... [Page 5] I, Representatives of Foreign Media and Dependents Nonimmigrants granted I classification may be admitted for the duration of employment. Unless you are a nonimmigrant from the People's Republic of China (see below), you do not need to file for an extension of stay as long as you work for the same employer in the same information medium. [new] However, you must file this application to request a change of employer or a change in the information medium in which you work. To do this, complete Item Number 2. in Part 2. of Form I-539 and indicate “change of employer” or “change of information medium” next to that selection. If you are requesting a change of status to I nonimmigrant status, complete Item 2. in Part 2. of Form I-539 and indicate “I-Foreign Press” in the space provided.	Submit a copy, front and back, of Form I-94 for each person included in the application, and Form I-566, certified by Department of State (DOS) to indicate your accredited status. ... [Page 6] I, Representatives of Foreign Media and Dependents [deleted] You must file this application if you are an I representative of foreign media filing for an extension of your I status, if you are seeking to change your employer or your information medium, if you are seeking to change your status from another nonimmigrant category to an I foreign media representative, or if you are a dependent spouse or child who is accompanying to join the principal I representative of foreign media. If you are requesting to extend your stay as an I representative of foreign media, complete Item Number 1. in Part 2. of Form I-539 and indicate “extension of stay” next to that selection. If you are filing this application to request a change of employer or a change in the information medium in which you work, complete Item Number 2. in Part 2. of Form I-539 and indicate “change of employer” or “change of information medium” next to that selection. If you are requesting a change of status to I nonimmigrant status, complete Item Numbers 1. and 2. in Part 2. of Form I-539 and indicate “I-Foreign Press” in the
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	To change your status to I, or to extend your stay in I nonimmigrant status due to a change of employer or information medium, submit the following with your application: 1. A copy of the front and back of Form I-94 for each person included on this application; 2. A letter from the employing foreign media organization that verifies your employment, establishes that you are a representative of that media organization, and describes the remuneration and work to be performed; and 3. If applicable, evidence of each dependent's relationship to the principal, such as a birth certificate or marriage certificate and proof of termination of any prior marriages. (NOTE: Dependents of I nonimmigrants receive the same classification as the principal.) I, Nonimmigrants from the People's Republic of China If you are an I representative of a foreign information media organization or a dependent who entered the United States on a passport from the People's Republic of China that is not a Hong Kong Special Administrative Region passport or a Macau Special Administrative Region passport, submit the following with your application to extend your stay: 1. A copy of the front and back of Form I-94 for each person included on this application; 2. A letter from the employing foreign information media organization that verifies your employment, establishing that you are a representative of that media organization, and describes the remuneration and work to be performed,	space provided. To change your status to I, or to extend your stay in I nonimmigrant status, or if filing a Form I-539 due to a change of employer or information medium, submit the following with your application: [Deleted] [Deleted] 1. A copy of the front and back of Form I-94 for each person included on this application; 2. Evidence that the foreign media organization which you represent has a home office in a foreign country, and that the home office will continue to operate in the foreign country while you are in the United States; 3. A letter from the employing foreign information media organization (or if self-employed or freelancing, an attestation) that verifies your employment, establishes that you are a representative of that media organization, and describes the
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	including the period of time for this work to be performed; and establishing that the employer's home office is located in a foreign country; and 3. If applicable, evidence of each dependent's relationship to the principal, such as a birth certificate or marriage certificate and proof of termination of any prior marriage(s). (NOTE: Dependents of I nonimmigrants receive the same classification as the principal.) NOTE: You must also submit the above-mentioned documents with your application if you are requesting a change of status to I nonimmigrant status and submitting a passport from the People's Republic of China that is not a Hong Kong Special Administrative Region passport or a Macau Special Administrative Region passport. J-1, Exchange Visitor If you are requesting a change of status to J-1 nonimmigrant classification, include a DS-2019, Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor Status, your Form I-94, and, if applicable, the Form I-94 for each person included in the application. [Page 6] NOTE: A change of status may be granted for a period up to 30 days before the program start date of the approved exchange visitor program listed on Form DS-2019. You must maintain a valid nonimmigrant status up to 30 days before the program start date of the approved exchange visitor program listed on Form DS-2019. J-1 Extensions	remuneration and work to be performed, including the period of time for this work to be performed; and 4. If applicable, evidence of each dependent's relationship to the principal, such as a birth certificate or marriage certificate and proof of termination of any prior marriage(s). (NOTE: Dependents of I nonimmigrants receive the same classification as the principal.) [deleted] J-1, Exchange Visitor J-1 Change of Status [Page 7] If you are requesting a change of status to J-1 nonimmigrant classification, include your valid DS-2019, Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status, your Form I-94, and, if applicable, the Form I-94 for each person included in the application. NOTE: A change of status may be granted for a period up to 30 days before the program start date of the approved exchange visitor program listed on Form DS-2019. You must maintain a valid nonimmigrant status up to 30 days before the program start date of the approved exchange visitor program listed on Form DS-2019. J-1 Extensions of Stay
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	If you are a J-1 exchange visitor seeking an extension of your status, contact the responsible officer of your program. You may not use Form I-539 to apply for an extension of your J-1 status. [new] J-1 Reinstatement If you are a J-1 exchange visitor seeking reinstatement, contact the responsible officer at your sponsoring program for information about the reinstatement procedure. Notice to J Nonimmigrants A J-1 exchange visitor who is receiving graduate medical education or training, and who has not received the appropriate waiver, is ineligible for change of status except to a nonimmigrant T or U visa. In addition, a J-1 exchange visitor who is subject to the foreign residence requirement, and who has not received a waiver of that requirement, is only eligible for a change of status to a nonimmigrant A, G, T, or U visa. If a J-1 exchange visitor is subject to the foreign residence requirement, any J-2 dependent is also subject to this requirement. If the J-1 exchange visitor obtains a waiver of the foreign residence requirement, the J-2 dependent is also	[deleted] To request an extension of J-1 status, you must submit your Form I-94, as well as Form I-94 for each qualifying dependent included in the application. Your application must also include: 1. A copy of your valid Form DS-2019, Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status, or successor form, issued by your program sponsor; 2. All previously used Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) numbers; and 3. Evidence that you have continuously maintained lawful status, such as, previous Form I-94s and transcripts. J-1 Reinstatement If you are a J-1 exchange visitor seeking reinstatement, contact the responsible officer at your sponsoring program for information about the reinstatement procedure. Notice to J Nonimmigrants [no change] If you are a J-1 exchange visitor who is subject to the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) section 212(e) foreign residence requirement, so is your J-2 dependent. If you obtain a waiver of the foreign residence requirement, that waiver will also
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	exempt from the requirement. Under certain limited circumstances, a J-2 dependent may be independently eligible for a waiver of the foreign residence requirement. A former J nonimmigrant (either a J-1 principal or a J-2 dependent) subject to the foreign residence requirement, who is currently maintaining another nonimmigrant visa status, continues to be subject to the foreign residence requirement. A former J nonimmigrant is ineligible for a change of status until he or she fulfills the foreign residence requirement or obtains the appropriate waiver. If you are a current or former J nonimmigrant, you must provide information about this status, including the dates you maintained status as a J-1 exchange visitor or a J-2 dependent. Willful failure to disclose this information (or other relevant information) can result in your application being denied. Provide proof of this status along with your application, such as a copy of Form DS-2019, Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor Status, or a copy of your passport that includes the J visa stamp. K Nonimmigrant ...	apply to your J-2 dependent. Under certain limited circumstances, a J-2 dependent may be independently eligible for a waiver of the foreign residence requirement. If you are a former J nonimmigrant (either a J-1 principal or a J-2 dependent) who is subject to the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) section 212(e) foreign residence requirement, and are currently maintaining another nonimmigrant visa status, you continue to be subject to the foreign residence requirement. As noted above, a former J nonimmigrant is ineligible for a change of status until he or she fulfills the foreign residence requirement or obtains the appropriate waiver If you are requesting change of status, you must demonstrate that you either fulfilled the foreign residence requirement of INA section 212(e), or that you obtained a waiver. You must provide information about your J status, including the dates you maintained status as a J-1 exchange visitor or a J-2 dependent and evidence that you resided outside the United States for 2 years or that you obtained the appropriate waiver. Willful failure to disclose this information (or other relevant information) can result in your application being denied. Provide proof of this status along with your application, such as a copy of your valid Form DS-2019, Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status, or a copy of your passport that includes the J visa stamp. K Nonimmigrant ...
	[Page 12] Who Is Eligible for V Nonimmigrant Status? ... (2) Your application for an immigrant visa, or your application for adjustment of status, pursuant to the approval of Form I-130, remains pending. 3. You must be admissible to the United	[Page 13] Who Is Eligible for V Nonimmigrant Status? ... (2) Your application for an immigrant visa, or your application for adjustment of status, pursuant to the approval of Form I-130, remains pending. 3. You must be admissible to the United

	States, except where the grounds of inadmissibility do not apply or have been waived. The grounds of inadmissibility that do not apply are Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) sections: ...	States, except where the grounds of inadmissibility do not apply or have been waived. The grounds of inadmissibility that do not apply are INA sections: ...
Pages 13-14, General Requirements	[Page 13] General Instructions ... [Page 14] 4. Part 1. Item Number 8. Country of Citizenship or Nationality. Provide the name of the country where you are a citizen and/or national. This is not necessarily the country where you were born. If you do not have citizenship in any country, type or print “stateless” and provide an explanation in Part 8. Additional Information. [new]	[Page 14] General Instructions ... [Page 16] 4. Part 1. Item Number 8. Country of Citizenship or Nationality. Provide the name of the country where you are a citizen and/or national. This is not necessarily the country where you were born. If you do not have citizenship in any country, type or print “stateless” and provide an explanation in Part 8. Additional Information. 5. Part 1. Item Number 12. If you were granted duration of status as an F or J nonimmigrant and are seeking a change of status, extension of stay in, or reinstatement as an F or J nonimmigrant then you should select the box in Part 1., Item Number 12. of the application to indicate that you were granted duration of status. F or J nonimmigrants may be eligible for an extension of stay period of up to 4 years, or until the program end date, whichever is shorter. USCIS will review the documentation submitted with your application to determine eligibility for an extension of stay through the requested date. Applicants seeking an extension of stay in F-1 or J-1 status should consult with their designated school official or responsible officer, respectively, to confirm the appropriate end date as needed. NOTE: Public high school. Aliens who are granted F-1 status to attend a public high school are restricted to an aggregate of no more than 12 months to complete their course of study. Please indicate a specific date for the end of your requested status in Part 3., Item Number 1.

	5. Part 5. Applicant’s Contact Information, Certification, and Signature. You must sign and date your application and, if applicable, provide your daytime telephone number, mobile telephone number, and email address. The signature of a parent or legal guardian, if applicable, is acceptable. A stamped or typewritten name in place of a signature is not acceptable. This certification does not affect the confidentiality protections you are entitled to under 8 U.S.C. section 1367(a)(2). 6. Part 6. Interpreter’s Contact Information, Certification, Part 1., Item Numbers and Signature. If you used anyone as an interpreter to read the Instructions and questions on this application to you in a language in which you are fluent, the interpreter must fill out this section and sign and date the application. 7. Part 7. Contact Information, Declaration, and Signature of the Person Preparing this Application, if Other Than the Applicant. The person who completed your application, if other than the applicant, must sign this section. If the same individual acted as your interpreter and your preparer, then that person should complete both Part 6. and Part 7. A stamped or typewritten name in place of a signature is not acceptable. ...	[Page 16] 6. Part 5. Applicant’s Contact Information, Certification, and Signature. You must sign and date your application and, if applicable, provide your daytime telephone number, mobile telephone number, and email address. The signature of a parent or legal guardian, if applicable, is acceptable. A stamped or typewritten name in place of a signature is not acceptable. This certification does not affect the confidentiality protections you are entitled to under 8 U.S.C. section 1367(a)(2). 7. Part 6. Interpreter’s Contact Information, Certification, Part 1., Item Numbers and Signature. If you used anyone as an interpreter to read the Instructions and questions on this application to you in a language in which you are fluent, the interpreter must fill out this section and sign and date the application. 8. Part 7. Contact Information, Declaration, and Signature of the Person Preparing this Application, if Other Than the Applicant. The person who completed your application, if other than the applicant, must sign this section. If the same individual acted as your interpreter and your preparer, then that person should complete both Part 6. and Part 7. A stamped or typewritten name in place of a signature is not acceptable. ...
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