

CHANGING TO F-1/M-1 STATUS

Eligibility

In order to file a change of status to R-1/M-1, the nonimmigrant must be:

- In an immigration status that allows for that change (see NOTE)
- In valid nonimmigrant status
- Admitted to an academic program

Timely Filing

A nonimmigrant in F-2, B-1/B-2 or J status who wishes to file a change of status to F-1/M-1 must do so before his/her current status expires.

Procedure

With the advisor's assistance, you must mail the following documents to the USCIS:

- Form I-539
- Form I-901
- I-20
- Proof of financial support for the first year of studies and for any dependents in the U.S.
- A cover letter addressed to USCIS requesting the change of status, explaining your immigration history, and why you entered the U.S. with a different status, why the change is needed, and why it is important to study at ICT and what you will do with the diploma/degree in the future.
- Copy of I-94 (front and back)
- Proof of current legal status (if on dependent visa, provide photocopies of primary visa holder's legal status) such as (a) I-94 and (b) DS-2019, or I-20
- Photocopies of I-94s (front and back) for any dependents who will be changing status with you
- Check or money order payable to USCIS for \$300 in US Dollars.

Send to: **USCIS VSC**
 75 Lower Welden Street
 Albans, Vermont 05479-001

NOTE:

Non-immigrants in C, D, K, M or those who entered the U.S. under the Visa-Waiver Pilot Program **cannot** change to F-1 status. In addition, those with J status are subject to the two-year home physical presence requirement may not change status in the U.S.

B nonimmigrants (both B-1 visitors for business and B-2 visitors for pleasure) are prohibited from "enrolling in a course of study or taking other actions inconsistent with B nonimmigrant status" unless USCIS first approves a change of status to F-1/M-1.