



International Student & Scholar Services

Re-Entry in the U.S. to Reinstate Status

Choosing to travel to reinstate your status:

Why should I travel to reinstate my status?

You should reinstate by travel if you are planning to travel outside the U.S. If granted admissions, you will resume status immediately after re-entering on your new I-20 document. Reinstatement applications by mail can take up to six months for adjudication.

When should I travel?

You should travel as soon as you have been informed that you are out of status.

If you have been out of status more than five months, you can only reinstate by travel.

If you have been out of status less than five months, you should apply for reinstatement by travel as soon as you can.

Do I have to apply for a new F-1 visa?

If you have been out of status for more than five months, you must apply for a new visa **even if your visa still looks valid in your passport.**

If you have been out of status for less than five months by the time of re-entry, you should contact your U.S. Embassy in order to find out whether or not to apply for a new visa.

Do I have to pay the SEVIS fee?

Yes, a student who decides to re-enter with a new I-20, rather than applying for reinstatement by mail, will receive a new SEVIS I-20 document and therefore, will be required to pay the SEVIS fee (I-901).

Is reinstatement by travel guaranteed?

The Custom and Border Protections Inspector will determine whether or not to admit you to the United States with your new SEVIS I-20 form. Please remember that there is always the possibility of the denial of your admissions. The inspector will consider your type of violation and determine whether or not grant you admissions in the U.S.

Do I have to accrue one full academic year if I reinstate by travel in order to apply for practical training?

Yes, please note that re-entry under a new I-20 means that you would be bound by restrictions placed on new students. Therefore, you must complete a full academic year before being eligible for any practical training benefit. Thus, any time that you had accrued towards qualification for training is lost.

Note: Failure to maintain status is grounds for removal from the United States (deportation) under I.N.A. 237 (a) (1) (c) (i).