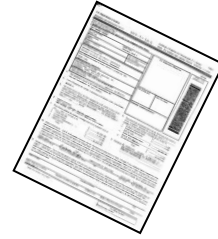


Form I-20 Extension



F-1 students are eligible for program extensions beyond the original completion date (line 5) on the Form I-20 if it can be proven that there is a legitimate reason for the delay in graduation. The USCIS clearly defines legitimate reason as “compelling academic or medical reasons such as changes of major or graduate research topics, unexpected research problems or documented illness.” Unacceptable reasons include poor grade point averages, academic probation or suspension, or insufficient hours completed each semester.

Delays that are beyond the student’s control are acceptable to USCIS. Delays created due to the lack of persistence or diligence on the part of the student is not acceptable to USCIS.

Procedure for Extending I-20

To apply for extension of the Form I-20, please drop off the following item at ISS:

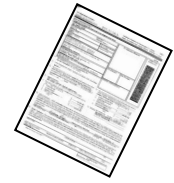
- Recommendation for Program Extension form completed by the student and Academic Advisor or Program Coordinator.

ISS staff members will then evaluate the extension request, which may require a conversation with the person who completed the explanation letter. If it is determined that a legitimate reason exists, a new Form I-20 containing the new date of completion will be issued. The student will then be required to return to the ISS office to sign and pick up their page of the new Form I-20.

PLEASE NOTE: It is mandatory for the student to complete this extension no less than 30 days prior to the expiration date on line 5 of the current I-20. Failure to do so will result in the student falling out of status with USCIS and becoming immediately **ineligible** for student employment, graduate assistantships or practical training.



Form I-20 Program Extension Recommendation



A. To be completed by Student:

From: _____

Print Name

ID Number

Address

Phone Number

E-Mail Address

Completion Date on Current I-20

B. To be completed by Academic Advisor/Program Coordinator:

The USCIS requires an international student to complete studies by the date originally written on the visa document at the time of admission. The international student whose name appears above wishes to apply for an extension of time allocated for completion of his/her program of study due to extenuating circumstances beyond his/her control. Please complete the form and return it to the office of International Students & Scholars.

1. The student is engaged in the following academic program:

Major: _____ Degree: _____

2. Is this student making normal progress toward his/her current degree? _____ Yes _____ No
3. Has the student been full-time since beginning his/her studies? _____ Yes _____ No

If no, please explain: _____

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

- Delay caused by a change in major field of study.
- Delay caused by a change in research topic
- Delay caused by unexpected research problems.
- Delay caused by lost credit upon transfer to our university
- No unusual delay. The original length of time given to complete studies was not reasonable for an average student in this program. Please explain: _____

- Other (Please explain on the reverse side of this form).

5. Do you recommend this student the additional time to continue his/her studies? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, anticipated date of completion: _____

Signature _____ Title: _____

Print Name _____ Date: _____

Campus Address: _____ Mailcode: _____