

## F-1/M-1 Reinstatement Fact Sheet

A student who fails to maintain F-1 or M-1 student status has two options as to how to regain their legal immigration status; application through USCIS/DHS or travel. Each option is explained below.

Some examples of how a student may fail to maintain status include:

-20 transfer procedure on time when changing schools or degree programs  
Failure to apply for an extension of program before I-20 expires

regulations)

**Option 1: Apply to the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS):** A non-immigrant alien who has failed to maintain status may apply for reinstatement to lawful status at the discretion of DHS, but only under limited conditions specified in immigration regulations.

An application for reinstatement *may be considered* if the following can be proved:

ve not been out of status for more than five (5) months

a full course of study

the status violation

The word "**REINSTATEMENT**" should be written at the top of the I-539 form to further distinguish it from other uses of Form I-539.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR PERSONAL LETTER** A strong letter should establish convincingly why you are out of status by specifically stating the violation, and the reason(s) you are in violation. State how failure to receive reinstatement approval will affect you; state that you are currently pursuing or intending to pursue a full course of study and specifically request that the Department of Homeland Security reinstate you to student status. Be sure to state that you have not violated any other immigration regulations and have not been employed without proper authorization; and finally reaffirm your intention that you intend to return to your home country when your F1 status is completed.

**PROCESSING THE REINSTATEMENT** Once your application is complete and has been reviewed by the ISSS Office, we will mail the reinstatement application yourself to one of the addresses below, or you can mail it yourself. If you mail it yourself, the ISSS Office recommends that you This allows you to track your application during the mail process and ensures proof that you sent your application and that it was received. It is important that the Reinstatement application packet be assembled in order as shown above in the to:

**Certified Mail or Overnight Mail:**

USCIS Texas Service Center  
ATTN: I-539 REINSTATEMENT  
PO Box 660166

USCIS Texas Service Center  
ATTN: I-539 - Reinstatement  
2501 S State Highway 121 Business Suite 400