

March 4, 2026

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
California Service Center



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services



RE: I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status

**REQUEST FOR EVIDENCE**

Thank you for electronically submitting your Form I-539, Application To Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status, to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). You are receiving this notice because USCIS requires additional evidence to process your form. Please provide the evidence requested below. Your response must be uploaded using your online myUSCIS account by April 3, 2026.

Please note that you have been allotted the maximum period allowed for responding to the RFE. The time period for responding cannot be extended. 8 CFR 103.2(b)(8)(iv). Because many immigration benefits are time sensitive, you are encouraged to respond to this request as early as possible, but no later than the deadline provided above. If you do not respond to this notice within the allotted time, your case may be denied. The regulations do not provide for an extension of time to submit the requested evidence.

There is a limit to the number and size of documents you can upload at once. You can respond to a Request for Evidence (RFE), until the response period expires or until you indicate that your response is finalized. Please login to your account at <https://myaccount.uscis.gov> and follow the instructions for submitting the requested evidence electronically. Additional information on electronic evidence submission is available on the USCIS Web site at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov).

If you upload only some of the requested evidence, USCIS will consider this submission your request for a decision on the record. (See 8 CFR 103.2(b)(11)). Therefore, we advise you to gather all of your evidence before you begin the submission process. If you indicate that you have finalized uploading evidence, USCIS will consider this your request for USCIS to adjudicate the case.

If you upload a document in any language other than English, the document must be accompanied by a full and complete English translation. The translator must certify that the translation is accurate and he or she is competent to translate from that language to English. If you upload an English language translation in response to this request for evidence, you must also include a copy of the foreign language document.

Processing of your I-539 will resume upon receipt of your response to this RFE. If you have not heard from USCIS within 60 days of responding, or if you need additional information, you may contact the USCIS Contact Center at 1-800-375-5283. If you are hearing impaired, please call the USCIS Contact



Center TDD at 1-800-767-1833.

### **MAINTENANCE OF B-2 STATUS**

Provide the following evidence to establish that you were in valid nonimmigrant status at the time your Form I-539 application was filed:

- Submit a detailed list of the activities in which you've engaged since being admitted to the United States. For example, if you were engaged in tourist activities, include the towns and cities and tourist attractions, such as parks and museums that you visited, to the best of your knowledge. You need not include any places you transited through on your way to these destinations, provided you did not stay overnight, or stopover in for a significant period of time.
- Provide evidence of your activities, which may include, but is not limited to receipts, bank statements, credit card statements, hotel invoices, rent receipts, and affidavits from those you have visited.
- If you were visiting a friend or relative, provide the name and address of the person and the dates visited.

### **LAPSED PROGRAM START DATE**

A review of the record indicates that the program start date on your Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status (Form I-20) has lapsed. A program start date which has lapsed is an unrealistic reporting date and makes the Form I-20 invalid.

It is your responsibility to remain in contact with the school and request that your Designated School Official (DSO) defer your program start date in SEVIS before the current program start date is reached so that the system does not automatically cancel your SEVIS record and to ensure that your Form I-20 remains valid.

USCIS has no discretion in this matter because a valid Form I-20, is required for the adjudication of a change of status to F-1. Contact your DSO and have your program start date deferred to a date in the future. When your SEVIS record has been updated, provide a new and valid Form I-20 with the new program start date. The Form I-20 must include your signature and the signature of the DSO. Submit the new and valid Form I-20 with the response to this request for evidence notice. **DO NOT** submit a Form I-20 with a new SEVIS ID number.

Your DSO may continue to defer your program start date to a date in the future. This will keep the Form I-20 valid and will prevent your record from canceling. If USCIS has not adjudicated your change of status at least 15 days before the program start date on your new Form I-20, contact the DSO at your new school or institution. If USCIS does not grant your request to change status prior to the start date of classes, you will need to defer attendance and wait until the following term in order to begin your studies at the school in F-1 status.

### **RESIDENCE ABROAD**

An F-1 student must establish that he or she has a residence in a foreign country which he or she has no intention of abandoning, is a bona fide student qualified to pursue a full course of study, and seeks to enter the United States temporarily and solely for the purpose of pursuing such a course of study.

Submit documentation to establish that you have maintained a foreign residence to which you intend to return at the expiration of your period of authorized study. The evidence may include, but is not limited to:

- Recent telephone bills and/or utility bills at your place of foreign residence;
- Residence Permit (government issued identity card) establishing foreign residence;
- Letter from government authorities on official letterhead with government seal listing your foreign residence;
- A letter from your parents indicating that you reside with them;
- Mortgage statements or current rental agreements relating to your foreign residence, to include rental receipts;
- A letter from your foreign bank, on the bank's letterhead with the bank's certification signature, verifying your foreign residence address, your bank account number, and the date your account was opened, establishing an established relationship with the bank (e.g., bank account opened for 3 months).

In addition, submit a statement and evidence detailing the effect your extended stay in the United States will have on your foreign residence.

This request for evidence pertains to your residence outside of the United States (not your temporary residence in the United States).

### **INTENT TO DEPART US**

Submit evidence to establish that you have made arrangements to depart the United States upon completion of your temporary stay. Such evidence may include an airline ticket or other proof of your departure transportation arrangements or evidence to show that you have the funds necessary to secure your timely departure from the United States.

Sincerely,

Carrie M. Selby  
Acting Associate Director, Service Center Operations