

# MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY

1 Normal Ave, Cole Hall Room 148, Montclair, NJ 07043  
Phone: 973-655-6862 ▪ Email: [oge@montclair.edu](mailto:oge@montclair.edu) ▪ Web: [www.montclair.edu/global](http://www.montclair.edu/global)

## Change of Non-Immigrant Status to F Status

The issuance of an I-20 does not give someone F status. If you are currently in the US in another status and you wish to change to F-1 or F-2 status you can accomplish this change in one of two ways:

1. Leave the US, apply for an entry visa for the new status at a US Consulate abroad and reenter the US with the appropriate documentation for the new status, OR
2. File an application for a change of non-immigrant status with US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Note: Because a change of status does not grant the applicant a new visa, during your next trip abroad, you will need to obtain an F-1/F-2 visa stamp from a US Embassy or Consulate in order to reenter the US in F-1/F-2 status.

If you choose to change your status while in the U.S., the Office of Global Engagement cannot assist you with your change of status application. It is recommended that you seek the assistance of an immigration attorney.

### IMPORTANT NOTES:

- This change of status application is to change your immigration status: IT DOES NOT GRANT YOU A VISA. The next time you travel outside the U.S. you will be required to go to a U.S. consulate or embassy abroad to apply for an F-1 visa.
- If changing your status while in the U.S., the change of status may take a very long time (1 to 2 years) to be processed; there is no way to expedite the process.
- If you are on currently on a **B-2 visa**, you may NOT work or attend classes in the U.S. while the change of status application is pending.
  - If you are currently in the U.S. on **any other visa** (besides B-2) you must register for and attend classes while your change of status is pending.
- If your change of status is not approved by the program start date printed on the I-20 form, you MUST contact your international student adviser immediately to discuss deferral of the program start date.
- You are responsible for submitting the application and all required documentation for the change of status request.
- Do not travel outside of the U.S. while your change of status case is pending. If you leave the country, USCIS will consider your application abandoned.

You must notify the Office of Global Engagement IMMEDIATELY once you have received the change of status - regardless of whether you changed from within the U.S. or if you traveled home for the visa.

I acknowledge that I have received and reviewed this document and understand my change of status options. I understand that the faster option is to leave the U.S. and apply for a student visa in my home country, but I am choosing to stay and apply for a change of status in the U.S. I understand that submitting a change of status request does not guarantee me an F-1 visa approval. I understand that I am responsible for my change of status application and that the Office of Global Engagement does not assume responsibility for proper filing.

**CHECK ONE OPTION:**

I will fly home to change my status \_\_\_\_\_

I will apply for a change of status from inside the U.S. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature