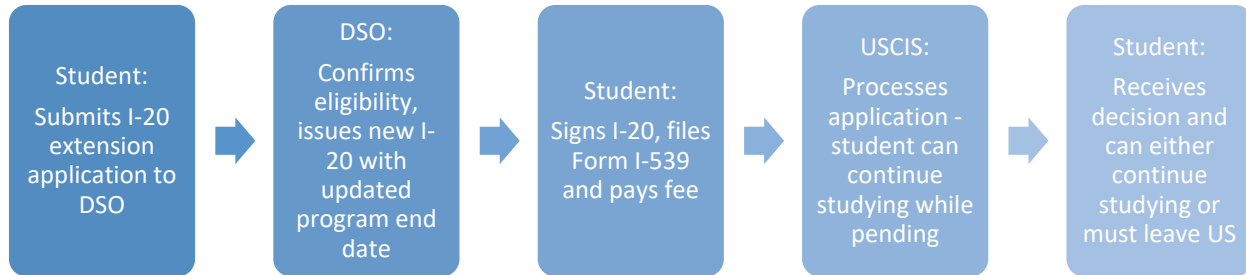


Application for Extension of Stay

Starting September 15, 2026, all F-1 international students will be given or transition to a fixed period of admission, meaning there will be a specific date until which they are authorized to be in the United States to study. Any students needing to stay longer in the US to complete their program, start post-completion Optional Practical Training (OPT), or transfer to a new program must either apply to both the International Student Program and USCIS for an extension or leave the US and re-enter with a new I-20.

- **What are acceptable reasons to apply for an extension of stay?**
 - Compelling academic reasons such as a change of major
 - Must provide evidence (such as an education plan from a counselor) demonstrating compelling academic reason in order for DSO to recommend extension
 - Academic notice/pause (probation) and academic suspension or repeated inability/unwillingness to make progress are not acceptable reasons
 - Documented illness or medical condition
 - Must provide documentation from a licensed medical doctor, licensed doctor of osteopathy, licensed psychologist, or licensed clinical psychologist
 - Exceptional circumstances beyond your control
 - Examples: natural disasters, DSO negligence, school closure
 - Transferring schools and starting a new program of study
 - Applying for post-completion OPT after finishing your program (graduating)
- **How do I know if I need to apply for an extension?**
 - Students already in the US on 9/15/26 who have not left the country since: extension needed if you need time beyond the Program End Date on your I-20
 - Students who entered or re-entered the US on or after 9/15/26: extension needed if you need time beyond the Program End Date on your I-20 and/or the Admit Until Date on your [I-94](#)
- **What if I choose to leave and re-enter with a new I-20 instead?**
 - Must have valid visa (or re-apply for visa while outside the US) and new I-20 with updated program end date when re-entering US
 - Should receive a new fixed period of admission (including 30-day grace period) on I-94
- **What do I need to submit in order to apply for an extension of stay?**
 - To the International Student Program: Submit the I-20 Program End Date Extension Request and proof of financial funding in order to get a new I-20 with an updated program end date, **AND**
 - To USCIS: Submit Form I-539 to USCIS, along with the [filing fee](#), biometric information, and any other required documents (including new I-20)
- **How early can I apply for an extension and what is the deadline?**
 - Can submit as early as 180 days before expiration of authorized admission period
 - Must submit I-20 Program End Date Extension Request to International Student Program before your program end date (ideally at least 30 days before)
 - Must submit I-539 application to USCIS before expiration of authorized admission period, including grace period (if applying for post-completion OPT or transferring after graduating)
- **What happens while my extension application is pending?**
 - Can still study full-time while application is pending
 - Can travel outside of the US, but extension of stay application may be considered abandoned if Customs & Border Protection issues a new I-94 with Admit Until Date

- If extension of stay application is filed before grace period, can continue working for up to 240 days if working on-campus, authorized for CPT, or authorized for Special Student Relief (unless SSR authorization period expires earlier)
 - Cannot continue working if extension of stay application is filed during grace period
- **What happens if my extension is denied?**
 - Will have to leave US immediately – no grace period

Extension of Stay Application Process Overview

Form I-539 Online Filing: <https://www.uscis.gov/i-539>

- Students are responsible for the filing and fee payment – ISP is not qualified to give assistance

I-20 PROGRAM END DATE EXTENSION REQUEST

If your I-20 end date ("Program End Date" on your I-20) or the end of your period of stay ("Admit Until Date" on your I-94) is approaching and you need to continue your studies, you must submit a request for an extension of stay. Please submit this request at **least 30 days** before your program end date.

PERSONAL INFORMATION	
Last Name:	First Name:
Student ID Number:	Major:
Email:	Phone Number:

REASON FOR EXTENSION	
Explain why you need an extension and how you will accomplish your educational goals.	
By submitting this application for an I-20 extension, I certify that: ☐ I understand that I am responsible for filing Form I-539 with USCIS and paying the filing fee ☐ I understand that receiving a new I-20 does not guarantee that USCIS will grant an extension of stay, and if my application is denied, I will need to depart the US immediately	
Signature:	Date:

Required Attachments

- ☐ Comprehensive education plan from counselor
- ☐ Affidavit of Financial Support
- ☐ Official bank letter (see below)

Official Bank Letter Criteria:

- *Should be a single-page document
- *Must have been issued within the last 3 months
- *Must be in English and clearly show the account balance(s)
- *Must be from personal/checking account with liquid funds
- ***Do not** send transaction histories
- ***Do not** send routing numbers

OFFICE USE ONLY	
☐ Approved: updated in SEVIS _____	☐ Denied Processed by: _____

**AFFIDAVIT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT**Enrollment Term: ☐ Fall ☐ Spring 20____**Applicant Information:**

Last Name

First Name

Middle

Applicant Email: _____ Student ID Number: _____

Current Cost of Attendance:

Estimated expenses for one academic year, based upon 24 units or two semesters (*fees are subject to change without notice*). All international students are required to take a minimum of 12 units per semester. On average, it takes students between 2-3 years to complete degree and/or transfer to a 4-year university.

Official Bank Letter: Must be in English. The bank letter (issued within 3 months of the application) must be from a **personal account with liquid funds (can be withdrawn without penalty at any time)**. Stocks, bonds, certificates of deposits or business accounts will NOT be accepted. No screenshots, etc. are accepted. An additional \$6,000 USD is required for each dependent (spouse/children).

CURRENT COST OF ATTENDANCE (may change without notice):			Proof in Official Bank Letter
Tuition & Fees	Living Expenses/Transportation	Health Insurance/Books/Misc.	Total Yearly Expenses
\$11,516	\$26,218	\$9,200	\$46,934

Financial Sponsor:

By signing below, the sponsor certifies that sufficient financial resources will be available to cover the student's expenses for the duration of his/her studies at American River College. Please attach an official bank letter (issued within 3 months of the application).

Sponsor's Name (print):	Relationship to Applicant:	Sponsor's Signature:	Date:
Address of Sponsor:			Amount of Sponsorship (US Dollars)
Street	City/State	Country	

Applicant's Dependent Information:

Attach a copy of passport for each dependent listed below. Additional financial support required: \$6,000 for spouse and \$6,000 per each child.

Relationship	Last Name	First Name	Gender	Date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	City/Country of Birth	Country of Permanent Residency/Citizenship
Spouse						
Child 1						
Child 2						

Applicant's Signature:

The undersigned understands and acknowledges (1) that the International Admissions Packet is correct in all respects, including student email addresses; (2) that withholding any information requested on this application or misrepresenting any of the facts pertaining to admission qualifications invalidates/cancels the application; (3) that if admitted, he/she agrees to comply with all College and F-1 Immigration Regulations in effect for each semester for which he/she registers thereafter. I certify that sufficient financial resources will be available to cover all expenses for the duration of my studies at the college. Furthermore, I agree to be responsible for all expenses not covered by the sponsor and to obtain and maintain adequate health insurance coverage throughout enrollment at the college.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____