



CHANGE OF STATUS **STUDENT TO SPOUSE - F-1 to F-2 or J-1 to J-2**

In order to be able to change your status in the United States from a student to a spouse, your spouse must be in the U.S. in a VALID F-1 or J-1 status at the time you are requesting this change. This is a lengthy process if you are processing your visa in the United States (4-6months) **

Your request to the U. S. Citizenship & Immigration Services should consist of the following:

- ☐ Completed form **I-539** <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-539.pdf>
- ☐ Check payable to the **Department of Homeland Security** (no abbreviations) for \$370.00 (Filing fee subject to change. Please check <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-539.pdf> for updates.)
- ☐ Letter from you to the USCIS stating the reason why you will no longer be a full-time student and that you would like to remain with your spouse
- ☐ A copy of your marriage certificate; this must be in English. You will need to obtain a translated copy if it is in a language other than English
- ☐ **Copy of** your SEVIS I-20 and your spouse signed and dated **or** DS-2019 and your spouses with your Signature
- ☐ Your spouse will need to show additional finances for you to be added on their I-20/ DS-2019 in amount of \$6,500 unless your children will be moving also on your spouse's I-20/DS-2019 then each dependent would be \$4,900.
- ☐ **Copies** of you and your spouse's VALID immigration forms:
 - ☐ I-94 card can be printed here: <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/recent-search>
 - ☐ Passport pages showing **both** the picture and the expiration date
 - ☐ U.S. F-1 or J-1 visa page

Set an appointment with an advisor at ISSO and bring all the items listed above and one extra copy. Make sure you are still in active immigration status when you apply, timing is very important!

ISSO will:

- ☐ Review and organize your application.
- ☐ Have you, the student mail the request by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the USCIS.

** J-1 to J-2 requests can only be made if you are not subject to the two-year home country residency requirement.*

*** If you are traveling outside the U.S., take the SEVIS I-20 for F-2 spouse or DS-2019 for J-2 spouse and acquire an F-2 or J-2 visa stamp in your passport from a U.S. embassy or consulate in your passport and use the SEVIS I-20 or DS-2019 to enter the U.S.*