



## *Cultural Center for Language Studies*

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### **Reinstatement to F-1 Status**

As a student in F-1 status, you are expected to comply with immigration regulations. If you fail to comply with these regulations, you will be "out of status". When you are out of status, you are no longer eligible to recertification of your I-20 for re-entry to the US, or any other benefits of F-1 status.

#### **The following are considered violations of your F-1 status:**

- Failure to attend the school whose I-20 you used to enter the United States
- Failure to report to CCLS for initial registration in SEVIS upon arrival
- Failure to maintain full-time registration
- Failure to maintain F-1 status (refer to your handbook and Maintaining Student Status Form)
- Failure to request a transfer from /to CCLS in a timely fashion

**Reinstatement allows you the opportunity to regain valid F-1 status and have the mistakes you made corrected by USCIS. You may be eligible for reinstatement only if you:**

- Are currently enrolled in a full-time program of studies
- Can establish that the violation of status resulted from circumstances beyond your control
- Have not engaged in unauthorized employment
- Have not been out of status for more than 5 months
- Can document sufficient financial resources to pursue a full-time course load
- Do not have a history of repeated violations
- Are not deportable from the US on any other grounds

**Procedure:** The application for reinstatement is made by you directly to USCIS. CCLS officials cannot approve your application. Only USCIS can reinstate your status.

#### **Your reinstatement application must include the following documents:**

1. A request for reinstatement, written by you, explaining why you fell out of status and why the circumstances were beyond your control
2. A new, original, I-20 created for you by CCLS for the purposes of reinstatement which you have signed and dated.
3. A completed Form I-539
4. Financial documentation showing resources to cover tuition fees and living expenses for the duration of your course of studies
5. Copies of your passport ID page, F-1 visa, and I-94 forms for everyone included in your application
6. School transcripts showing you were a bona-fide student
7. A bank check or money order payable to US Department of Homeland Security in the amount of \$455

If you have dependents in the US, you must also include them in the application since a violation of your F-1 status affects your dependent family members as well. Each dependent fee is \$85.

We recommend that you make a copy of your application materials for your own records before sending it to USCIS. Send the application by courier service or Express Mail to:

**US Citizenship and Immigration Services**

**ATTN: I-539**

**2501 South State Highway 121**

**Business Suite: 400**

**Lewisville, TX 750674**

If your request for reinstatement is approved, you are once again eligible for the benefits of F-1 status. If the application is denied, you will be notified and required to leave the US.

**Reinstatement Processing time**

It may take 8 months or longer for the application to be adjudicated. You must continue to study full time while the application is pending.