

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES

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☎ Web: <http://www.iss.uconn.edu>

PROGRAM EXTENSION FOR F-1 & J-1 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

As a student in F-1/J-1 status, it is required that you finish your program of study by the completion date on your current Form I-20/DS-2019. If you are not able to complete your degree by that date, you must contact International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) to extend your program **no later than one month before the date your I-20/DS-2019 will expire.**

In order to obtain a program extension, you must show that you have continually maintained status and that the extension is needed for compelling academic or medical reasons, such as a change in major or research topic, unexpected research problems, or a documented illness. Delays in completing your program caused by academic probation of studies or suspension are not acceptable reasons for extension of stay.

If you fail to extend your I-20 in a timely fashion or you do not meet the eligibility requirements to apply for a program extension, you have to apply for reinstatement to F-1/J-1 status. In that case, please contact ISSS for more information how to apply for a reinstatement.

How to apply for a program extension

Submit the following to ISSS (**at least one month before the I-20/DS-2019 expiration date**):

1. **For both F-1 & J-1 students:** Have your academic/faculty advisor complete a Recommendation for Program Extension Form (a sample of form is attached)
2. **For both F-1 & J-1 students:** Current proof of financial support documents for the requested extended period (i.e. a letter from the program indicating amount of funding or a letter from any sponsor organization with amount of funding and duration of support or a bank statement if it is self supporting.)

To determine how much you need to show please refer to the most current Financial Declaration form for your program: <http://global.uconn.edu/about/immigration-services/forms/pre-arrival/>

The financial support documents for self-supported individuals must meet the following criteria:

- a. Official and original;
 - b. No older than 3 months old;
 - c. Must be in English;
 - d. Must indicate specific fund amount;
 - e. Must be liquid funds (checking and/or savings accounts); and
 - f. If the support funding is from parents or a family member, please attach a bank statement of the sponsor and a letter from him/her stating the willingness to sponsor, amount of funding and the duration of support.
3. **For J-1 students only:** Proof of medical/health insurance mandated by the U.S. Department of State regulations which has been valid in your current J-1 program period.

ISSS will then determine your eligibility for a program extension. **If approved**, an International Advisor at ISSS will notify SEVIS of your new completion date and issue a new SEVIS Form I-20/DS-2019 with the extended completion date.

F-1 & J-1 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM EXTENSION RECOMMENDATION FORM

SECTION A: *To be completed by student*

Name: _____ UConn ID: _____
Family name First Name

Date of Birth: _____
(mm/dd/yyyy)

Local Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Degree Sought/Program: Bachelor's Master's Doctorate UCAELI
 Certificate Exchange Student Other (specify): _____

Current visa status: F-1 J-1

For J-1 student only: Have you applied for a waiver for 212(e) requirement? Yes No N/A
 Have you received a waiver for 212(e) requirement approval? Yes No

**If yes, please provide a copy of approval/No-Objection Letter.*

SECTION B: *To be completed by Academic Advisor*

This form is designed to facilitate the communication of certain information required by regulations of the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The student listed above wishes to apply for an extension of time for a program of study. Please complete the form and return it to ISSS.

- A. The student is enrolled in the following academic program.
 Major _____ Minor _____
 Total number of credits that will be earned at the end of the current semester: _____
 Number of credits required for degree: _____
 Is this student currently working only on his/her dissertation? Yes No
 Expected program completion date (please specify mm/dd/yyyy, NOT only mm/yyyy): _____
- B. Is the student listed above making normal progress in his/her current program? Yes No
- C. Do you recommend this student be given additional time to continue his/her studies? Yes No
- D. This student has not yet completed the current program of study due to the following reasons: (Please check all that apply)
- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delay caused by a change in major field of study
<input type="checkbox"/> Delay caused by adding a secondary major/a minor
<input type="checkbox"/> Delay caused by a change in research topic
<input type="checkbox"/> Delay caused by unexpected research problems
<input type="checkbox"/> The original length of time given to complete studies was not reasonable for an average student in this program.
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (be specific and explain in detail): _____

_____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Delay caused by lost credits upon transfer to UConn
<input type="checkbox"/> Delay caused by a previous leave of absence
<input type="checkbox"/> Delay caused by a medical reason
<input type="checkbox"/> ESL Only: Need more time to reach the desired proficiency level |
|--|---|

Academic Advisor's Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date _____