

Petition for Reinstatement to F-1 Status by Travel (New Initial I-20)

An F-1 student who has overstayed his or her authorized period of stay or has otherwise failed to maintain F-1 student status may be reinstated to lawful F-1 status at the discretion of a USCIS [U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Service] district official or by traveling outside the USA with a new initial I-20 and obtaining a new F-1 visa.

If an F-1 student has been out of status for more than 5 months, s/he is ineligible for reinstatement, unless s/he can show exceptional circumstances. (8CFR 214.2(f)(16)(i))

Please consult with an International Student Advisor before considering reinstatement to student status by travel.

Obtaining an Initial I-20 from CSUEB

To obtain an I-20, please submit the following to CIE:

- a. Declaration of Finances form (available online and at CIE)
- b. Verification of Funds (bank statement or letter)
- c. Verification of Remaining Requirements
 - Graduate students- email verification from your major advisor
 - Undergraduate students- email verification from your major advisor and GE advisor (Sam Tran)

Procedure:

Once you have your new Initial I-20 from CIE, you must do the following

1. **SEVIS Fee**- you must pay the SEVIS fee for your new Initial I-20. The easiest way to pay is online (www.fmjfee.com).
 - a. Please print and keep a copy of your receipt.
2. **Visa Appointment**- you must schedule a visa appointment at U.S Embassy, preferably in your home country, to obtain a new F1 visa.
 - a. You will have to follow the instructions given on the embassy website regarding timing and documentation required.
 - ***Please check with your U.S. Embassy if you are required to obtain a new F-1 visa if your current F-1 visa is valid***
3. **Return Date**- You are not allowed to return to the USA until 30 days prior to the start of the program date listed on your I-20.
4. **Check In with CIE**- upon your return to the USA, you must check in with CIE with 10 days.
 - a. Bring your passport, your I-20, your visa and a printout of your I-94.
 - i. You can obtain a copy of your I-94 at www.cbp.gov/i94
 - ***If you do not check in with CIE, a hold will be placed on your account.***

Notes:

- A new initial I-20 will create a new immigration record for you. This will not affect your academic record.
- You must enroll in a full course of study for at least 2 semesters (Fall and Spring) after you return to the U.S. with a new SEVIS I- 20 to be eligible to apply for a Reduced Course Load, Curricular Practical Training (CPT) or Optional Practical Training (OPT).