**Change of Status**

**Changing your visa status**
If you are in the U.S. and have a visa status other than F-1, you may decide to change to F-1 because--

- You are a dependent of a parent and will turn the age of 21, which requires that you obtain your own status.
- You are a dependent of your spouse and your spouse will complete their objective, but you wish to continue your study (for example J-2 or H-4).
- You are an F-2 dependent of your spouse or parent and you cannot begin study at SLU until you change status.
- You are in H-4 status and would like to accept an assistantship.
- You are in H-1B status and you would like to quit working and focus on your education full-time.

The reasons listed above are just a sample of common reasons that individuals decide to change status. We always encourage that you come in to the Office of International Services to discuss your unique situation so we can advise you on the appropriate plan.

**Changing your immigration status by travel**
An individual that is in C, D, K, M status, or J status and is subject to the 2-year home residence requirement, and those admitted under the Visa Waiver Program must change status by travel. Only a person holding a B-2 visa with the notation "prospective student" will be able to change status in the U.S.

- Obtain an I-20. If you wish to change status to F-1, you will need to gain admission or show that you are a current student in an academic program before we can issue an I-20. We will also need to verify your financial situation through an original bank statement and/or sponsorship letter.
- You will need to travel outside the U.S. While many U.S. Consulates will review visa applications for individuals that are not citizens of the country, it is highly recommended to return to your home country to obtain the visa. There are a number of documents that you will need to take with you in order to apply for a visa. Please refer to the information about applying for an initial student visa.
- Arriving in the U.S. Once you have obtained the visa, you will return to the U.S. and an I-94 card will be marked with your new visa class. Verify that the border official has marked the correct visa class on your I-94 card before leaving.

**Changing your immigration status by application**
An individual that is in C, D, K, M status, or J status and is subject to the 2-year home residence requirement, and those admitted under the Visa Waiver Program must change status by travel. Only a person holding a B-2 visa with the notation "prospective student" will be able to change status in the U.S.

- Obtain an I-20 from the OIS. If you wish to change status to F-1, you will need to gain admission or show that you are a current student in an academic program before we can issue an I-20. We will also need to verify your financial situation through an original bank statement and/or sponsorship letter.
- Properly completed Form I-539 found at (www.uscis.gov/i-539). You will need a statement and supporting documents to respond to Part 4, Question 3g and to your financial situation.
- Original Form I-94.
- Copy of your passport page(s) showing the photo and signature of the applicant and validity of the passport. A copy of your current visa.
- A fee of $290 in check or money order payable to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.
- Copy of the Form I-797 receipt for the SEVIS fee.

Please contact Cathy Donahue at donahuec@slu.edu with questions and to complete the application.