



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
SAN ANTONIO

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## Office of International Affairs

### How to Change from H-4 to F-1

Holders of the H-4 Visa who want to change their status to F-1 will need an I-20 from OIA. To process an I-20, student must submit the following information to OIA:

- University Acceptance Letter
- Proof of Financial Resources
  - \$43,583 for undergraduate; \$35,647 for graduate; \$45,259 for 11-Month MBA
  - Students may use a [Sponsorship Form](#) for their financial support
- [Biographical Form](#)
- Passport copy
- Most recent I-94 and visa

After receiving the I-20, students must pay the [I-901 SEVIS fee](#) and then file the [I-539, Application to Extend/Change Immigrant Status](#). They must pay a \$420 fee for the online processing of Form I-539. Read Form I-539 instructions to determine if you will need to pay any other fees based on individual circumstances.

While completing Form I-539, students have the option to select premium processing by completing Form I-907 and paying \$1,965. Processing I-539 applications for the change of status takes between 3 to 6 months on average. Premium processing is approximately three weeks.

After completing Form I-539, students must submit the following documents to USCIS:

- Copy of I-20 from their university
- University acceptance letter
- Copy of passport
- Copy of a recent I-94
- Details of any past H-4 Visa extensions
- Proof of having enough finances to pay for tuition and living expenses
- Cover letter explaining why they wish to change their status
- Proof of planning to return to their home country after their F-1 Visa expires
- Receipt(s) confirming that they paid all the relevant fees

The exact documents required by USCIS may vary depending on the individual circumstances of each student. OIA encourages students to consult with an immigration lawyer for assistance in completing a portfolio of evidence for the I-539 application.

Office of International Affairs

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