## REINSTALLMENT or TRAVEL AND RE-ENTRY

Have you worked off campus without proper employment authorization? Did you drop below a full course of study without first seeking approval from ISSS? Perhaps you were not full-time during fall/spring semester. Or have you allowed your I-20 to expire and not yet completed your degree? If one of these situations apply then you are considered to have violated the terms of student status. Depending on your circumstances, your violation may or may not be corrected through reinstatement. The following chart has been created to help you determine which approach to take; please also discuss your situation with an international student advisor.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>REINSTALLMENT</th>
<th>TRAVEL AND RE-ENTER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eligibility</strong></td>
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<td>- You will have to provide a detailed explanation to the satisfaction of USCIS that 1) the violation of status resulted from circumstances beyond your control (including serious injury or illness; closure of the University, a natural disaster, oversight by DSO or 2) the violation relates to a reduction in your course load that would have been within a DSO’s power to authorize;</td>
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<td>- Have not been out of status for more than 5 months at the time of filing the request for reinstatement (unless you can demonstrate exceptional circumstances and you are filing as promptly as possible);</td>
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<td>- Do not have a record of repeated or willful violations of USCIS regulations;</td>
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<td>- Currently pursuing, or intending to pursue, a full course of study in the immediate future;</td>
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<td>- Have not engaged in unauthorized employment; and</td>
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<td>- Not deportable on any ground.</td>
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**Process Overview**
- Submit a personal letter explaining circumstances why you are out of status.
- Complete USCIS Form I-539 for “reinstallation” with check/money order for $370 application fee.
- Complete ISSS form “I-20 Request for Reinstallation or Travel/Reentry” with updated proof of finances.
- Pay form I-901 $200 SEVIS fee, if applicable (SEVIS fee is not required if applying for reinstatement and out of status less than five months).

**Advantages**
- Do not lose continuity of student status; if reinstated student status is restored
- Unlawful presence count erased by USCIS if reinstatement application is approved

**Disadvantage/Consequences**
- Your student visa is automatically cancelled.
- If reinstatement is denied you must be prepared to depart the U.S. immediately. USCIS could issue a Notice to Appear; commence removal or deportation proceeding.
- You will begin or resume accumulating days of “unlawful presence.” USCIS will determine the day you failed to maintain status and also the number of days of unlawful presence after the F status violation occurs.
- As result you may be subject to 3 or 10-year reentry bar depending on number of days (more than 180 days) of unlawful presence accumulated.

**Eligibility**
- If you are not eligible or if you are a poor candidate for reinstatement you do have an alternative method to regain student status. By the travel and re-enter method you are making an active choice to leave the U.S. and attempt to return. Prior to leaving, you will need to obtain a new I-20 marked “Initial Attendance” from ISSS and use the new I-20 to re-enter the U.S. After making a new entry, you will in effect start your student status all over again.

**Process Overview**
- Student submits ISSS “Request for I-20 for Reinstatement or Travel/Reentry”, Declaration of Finances form, and updated financial information.

**Advantages**
- May be a right choice if you had already made plans to travel (i.e. for vacation, to visit family, etc). The speed or convenience of travel option outweighs applying for conventional reinstatement.
- No application fee is required.
- Upon re-entry and check-in with ISSS, your student status is restored allowing you to resume assistantship or engage in on-campus employment.

**Disadvantages**
- May not be the right choice if you are close to completing your degree and plan to apply for optional practical training. With new entry you must wait/maintain student status for one full academic year before regaining eligibility to apply for practical training or economic necessity employment authorization.
- Pay the $200 SEVIS fee prior to re-entering the U.S. and/or before applying for a F-1 visa, if required.
- Departure from U.S. may trigger penalty (3 or 10 year bar) under INA 212(a)(9)(B), if more than 180 days of unlawful presence had been accumulated before departure. It is advisable you consult with an immigration attorney.
- A SEVIS record termination may show up in government database as a possible ground for ineligibility for a visa or admission at a CBP POE. Face the risk of a visa denial if you must apply for a new F-1 visa. Face the risk of your admission into U.S. is denied at port-of-entry, even if you are in possession of valid new I-20, passport, and F-1 visa.