



UNDERSTANDING THE NEW F-1 and J-1 DURATION OF STATUS RULE

TOWN HALL August 31, 2026
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

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Today's Immigration Environment

 Policy Shifts Frequent regulatory changes and sudden federal updates	 Heightened Scrutiny Increased government enforcement & oversight
 Strict Compliance Changing expectations for institutions & individuals	 Uncertainty Significant operational & personal impacts

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Key Changes

Moving from flexible D/S to fixed AUD

New requirement for Extension of Stay (EOS) filings for some people in F/J status

New academic restrictions for F students

Increased importance of document end dates

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Key Immigration Terms

Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20 / DS-2019)

- Document issued by OIE ***certifying (academic) program details and financial support.***
- Must be actively maintained in SEVIS; supporting documentation (admissions records, hiring/offer letters, etc.) must be maintained.
- Form I-20 for F-1 status
- Form DS-2019 for J-1 status

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Key Immigration Terms

Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20 or DS-2019)

The image displays two sample forms used for immigration purposes. The left form is the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Form I-20, 'Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status'. It includes fields for personal information, school details, and program specifics, with a 'Class of Admission' section showing 'F-1' and 'ACADEMIC AND LANGUAGE'. The right form is the U.S. Department of State's Form DS-2019, 'Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor Status'. It includes fields for personal information, sponsor details, and program specifics, with a 'Class of Admission' section showing 'J-1' and 'ACADEMIC AND LANGUAGE'. Both forms are marked with a large 'SAMPLE' watermark.

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Key Immigration Terms

Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)

- U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) web-based (tracking) database
- Used to maintain information on:
 - Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)-certified schools,
 - F-1 students,
 - U.S. Department of State-designated Exchange Visitor Program sponsors
 - J-1 visa Exchange Visitor Program participants
 - F/J dependents

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Key Immigration Terms

Passport

Official document identifying a person and their nationality; required for international travel and to enter, work and extend status in the U.S. **May not expire while in the U.S.; must be valid for at least 6 months into the future at the time of entry.**



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Key Immigration Terms

U.S. Entry Visa

The physical travel document (sticker) placed in a passport by a U.S. Embassy/Consulate. Solely grants permission to seek admission at a port of entry. **May expire while in the U.S.**



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Key Immigration Terms

Form I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record)

Document issued by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at the Port of Entry that indicates the individual's date of arrival, immigration status and authorized period of stay in the United States.

For SCOTTY DOG

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Securing America's Borders

Most Recent I-94

Note to employers, local, state or federal agency granting benefits:
Please visit the CBP I-94/I-95 Website and click on the tab for "Get Most Recent I-94/I-95" to perform a search for the applicant to confirm that the biographic and travel information displayed on this I-94/I-95 printout matches the "Get Most Recent I-94/I-95" returned results for this applicant. Reference the CBP I-94/I-95 Website FAQs.

Admission I-94 Record Number: 00000000067

Arrival/Issued Date: 2026 August 13

Class of Admission: F1

Admit Until Date: D/S

Details provided on the I-94 Information form:

Last/Surname: DOG

First (Given) Name: SCOTTY

Birth Date: 2000 January 01

Document Number: UK00000K9

Country of Citizenship: UNITED KINGDOM

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Key Immigration Terms

AUD Admit Until Date

The specific calendar date on Form I-94 marking the exact end of a nonimmigrant's authorized period of stay.

Effective 9/15/2026, replaces D/S or indefinite F-1/J-1 admission.

For SCOTTY DOG

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Last/Surname: DOG

First (Given) Name: SCOTTY

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Document Number: UK00000K9

Country of Citizenship: UNITED KINGDOM

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Key Immigration Terms

EOS (Extension of Stay)

Application to legally extend a nonimmigrant's stay beyond their initial Admit Until Date using I-539 application to USCIS.

Designated School Official (DSO) and Alternative Responsible Officer (ARO)

OIE staff member designated by CMU, approved by U.S. gov't, to assist students/scholars/alums in F & J status and ensure the University's compliance with F & J regulations.

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Comparison: Duration of Status (D/S) vs. New Fixed-Term (AUD)

Current D/S Framework

Admission

F-1 and J-1 admitted to the U.S. for an indefinite "Duration of Status (D/S)" to complete programs.

Grace Periods

60-day grace period (F-1) or **30-day** grace period (J-1).

Extensions

Notifications by Designated School Officials (DSOs), Alternate Responsible Officers (AROs) in SEVIS

New Rule (effective 9/15/2026)

Admission

Fixed Admit Until Date (AUD), capped at a **maximum of 4 years** per entry.

Grace Period

Standardized to **30 days** if maintaining status.

Extensions

Mandatory USCIS adjudication requiring Extension of Stay (EOS) application w/fees and biometrics OR travel & re-entry.

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Key Changes in New Rule: Length of Stay

Admit Until Date (AUD)

After **9/15/26**, F/J students & scholars admitted for specific period (AUD) not to exceed **4 years**.

New standard for 30-day Grace Period

- Reduced from 60 days for F status
- Unchanged for J status

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Key Changes in New Rule: Academic Mobility

Level Restriction

No movement to a lower educational level allowed.

Repetition Restriction

Not permitted to complete more than one program at the same educational level in the U.S.

Exception for students who earned their degree before 9/15/2026.

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Key Changes in New Rule: Academic Mobility

Restrictions on Changing Major and School Transfers

Undergraduate Students

- No change of major in first year of F-1 status.
- No school transfer in first year.
- Exception for **extenuating circumstances** authorized by SEVP.

Graduate Students

- No change of educational objective (major or program) allowed.
- No school transfer at any point.
 - Exception for **extenuating circumstances** authorized by SEVP.

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Key Changes: J-1 Exchange Visitor Participants

TRANSITION TO AUD

- Requires an EOS to transfer programs or extend the program

COMPLETION DATE

Expected Completion Date (ECD)

- New concept of “Expected Completion Date” or ECD for J-1 participants
- Applies to scholars who have annual appointments but longer anticipated program lengths

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Transition Period: F-1 Students

ELIGIBILITY:

Students in F-1 status in the U.S. on **9/15/26** and who do not travel internationally

- May remain in the U.S. without filing for EOS until program end date on I-20 or OPT or STEM OPT EAD, not to exceed 11/14/2030 (*which is four years, plus a 60-day departure period*).

NOTE: International travel after 9/15 ends "transition period."
New rules will apply upon reentry to U.S. on or after 9/15/2026.

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Transition Period: F-1 Students and OPT

OPT FILING on or before 3/18/2027

Exemption from EOS

F-1 students in their transition period, who remain in the U.S., may request OPT without having to file an EOS

OPT FILING after 3/18/2027

EOS required

F-1 students in their transition period, who remain in the U.S. and apply for OPT after 3/18/2027 will have to also apply for EOS

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Transition Period: J-1 Students/Scholars

ELIGIBILITY:

Students and Scholars in J-1 status in the U.S. on **9/15/26** and who do not travel internationally

- May remain in the U.S. without filing for EOS until program end date on DS-2019, not to exceed 10/14/2030 (whichever is shorter.)

NOTE: International travel on or after 9/15/2026 ends the "transition period."

New rules will apply upon reentry to U.S. on or after 9/15/2026.

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Program Extension vs. Extension of Stay

Program Extension

DSO-Notification

An update to an F-1 student's SEVIS Program End Date due to a compelling academic or extenuating circumstance

ARO-Notification

An update to a J-1 SEVIS program end date

Extension of Stay (EOS)

Application or Travel and Reentry to obtain additional time in the U.S.

Permitted Purposes:

- Complete the current program of study
- Begin a new program at a higher level
- Engage in post-completion or STEM OPT

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Extension of Stay (EOS) Application

Form I-539 Application In-Country Extension

- Students must submit **Form I-539** for an Extension of Stay (EOS) to USCIS.
- Must be submitted **before** your "Admit Until Date" expires.
- Applications may be filed up to **180 days in advance**.

Travel & Readmission Port of Entry Option

- Students and Scholars with unexpired visas who travel may **apply for readmission** at a U.S. port of entry.
- Upon approval by CBP, receive a **new Form I-94** reflecting a new period of admission.
- AUD based on updated **SEVIS record** and supporting documents.

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Extension of Stay (EOS) Application Timing

Employment Warning

If EOS is filed *before* I-20 end date, then student may continue previously approved employment while EOS is pending up to 240 days.

However, if EOS is filed *during* the 30-Day Grace Period, then all employment must stop.

Students **cannot begin or continue** any type of employment, including:

- On-campus employment
- Off-campus employment

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Travel: general considerations

Risk Assessment

- Consider travel plans carefully and well in advance.
- Evaluate your personal tolerance for travel delays, unexpected disruptions, etc.

Required Documents

- Valid Passport
- Valid Visa
- Valid Travel Signature on Certificate of Eligibility
- Valid EAD if on OPT

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Travel: general considerations

I-94 Verification

- Check your I-94 after **every** re-entry to the U.S.

Passport Validity

- Make sure your passport has a future expiration date.
- Ideally, it should extend beyond the end date of your I-20 or DS-2019.
- **Passport expiration date may impact AUD upon reentry**

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CPT UPDATE

Following a careful review of recent Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) communications and consultation with internal and external legal counsel, it has been determined that:

CPT may only be authorized when practical training is a **required component of an academic program that must be completed by all students in the program in order to earn the degree.**

Read the OIE News article for SEVP's communications. We continue to consult and review options and will update our CPT page further.

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Upcoming OIE Sessions

OPT Q & A Session:

Friday, **Sept. 11**, 12:00 - 1:30 pm via **Zoom**

OPT drop-in session (for those preparing OPT applications this fall):

Thursday, **Sept. 17**, 12:30 - 2:30 pm, in **CUC, Class of 1987 room**

Employment Authorization for F-1 & J-1 Students VIRTUAL Workshop (CPDC & OIE):

Friday, **Sept. 25**, 12:00 - 1:00 pm via **Zoom**

Travel Considerations Session:

Friday, **Oct. 2**, 12:00 - 12:45 pm via **Zoom**

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