

Procedure for Dependents Joining F-1 Students in the United States

Attached is the I-20 and certification letter you requested. Sign and date the bottom of page 1 of the form I-20. Mail all pages of the form I-20 to your spouse and/or dependents and instruct him/her to take them to the nearest American Consulate or Embassy Office to apply for the F-2 visa. Your financial statement should be included in this package in case the visa issuing officer requests your proof of funds.

F-2 Notes

F-2 dependents are *not* eligible to pursue a degree. However, the law allows you to engage in courses periodically that are considered as a hobby or *avocational or recreational*. Those F-2 dependents wishing to pursue full-time studies must apply to the Immigration Service for a change-of-status to F-1. The change of status process takes approximately 90 to 120 days. PLEASE NOTE: This rule *does not* apply to F-2 dependents attending elementary, middle or high school on a full-time basis.

F-2 dependents are *not* eligible to engage in employment of any type. Assistantships, stipends, tuition waivers and teaching positions are considered as employment. Therefore, if you are in F-2 status you are *not* eligible to receive any financial assistance.

ISA is more than happy to discuss your status and the options that are available to you.