



CHECKLIST FOR CHANGE OF STATUS (COS) TO F-1 VISA STATUS

Important Notes/Memo of Understanding

The information contained on this form is intended for informational purpose only and is not to be taken as legal advice. Please speak to an international student advisor about your specific situation so that we can properly advise you.

1. You must be in a valid non-immigration status at the time you submit the change of status (COS) application to USCIS.
2. Travel outside the US while your COS application is pending abandons your COS application.
3. If you are in J-1 or J-2 Status and subject to the 2-year home residency requirement, you need to receive a waiver before you apply for a COS in the U.S.
4. If you are in a non-immigration status that may allow you to take courses, you may be able to take credit-bearing courses while you maintain your non-immigration status or while the COS is pending. If you are in a B1/B2 (visitor) visa status applying for a change of status (COS), you **will not be able to register** for credit courses until the COS is approved.
5. Changing your status in the U.S. will not give you a visa stamp in your passport. If you travel outside the U.S. after your F1 status is approved, you must have a valid F-1 visa obtained outside the U.S. to return along with your current I-20.
6. Your visa status is exclusively a matter between you and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The Durham Tech International Student Services (ISS) won't be able to file your COS application on your behalf. If you prefer, you may consult with an immigration attorney on how to file your change of status application.
7. Please keep ISS updated of your COS application status. If your application is approved, you must provide us with a copy of approval notice and be full time enrolled in the semester right after the approval date.

I acknowledge and understand the information above regarding change of status.

Student Name: _____ Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Indicate Term & Year for which you are requesting an I-20: **Fall 20**_____ **OR** **Spring 20**_____



Please complete and return this page to International Student Services at Durham Tech.