Reinstatement Guidelines

If your I-20 has been terminated and you wish to continue your studies you have two options:

1) obtain a new initial attendance I-20 from the DSO, travel back home, reapply for a F-1 visa and re-enter the U.S. on that new I-20 or
2) apply for reinstatement to legal F-1 status from the U.S. Customs and Immigration Service (USCIS) within 5 months of your I-20 being terminated

If you choose to apply for reinstatement, meet with international advisor to discuss these steps:

1. Write letter of explanation to USCIS including: why you are out of status, the reason you are out of status, the effect on you of failure to receive reinstatement, statement that you are currently pursuing or intend to pursue a full course of study. And specifically request that USCIS reinstate you to F-1 status
2. Complete and sign Form I-539. Write “Reinstatement” in red across top of first page
3. Obtain cashier’s check or money order to DHS for $290.
4. Obtain properly endorsed I-20 issued for reinstatement from a DSO
5. Obtain letter from international advisor recommending reinstatement
6. Make copy of new financial support documents
7. Obtain Form I-94: https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/request.html
8. Make copies of all I-20’s
9. Obtain sealed official transcripts
10. Obtain evidence that you are currently enrolled/registered
11. Make copy of personal data pages of passport showing the current expiration date, visa page, and latest United States admission stamp
12. Write a detailed chronological history of every period of study and every period that you were out of status. See template.
13. Make a copy of everything to keep for your records
14. Mail by certified mail to:    OR  Mail by express mail to:

USCIS
PO Box 660166
Dallas, Texas  75266

USCIS
Attn: I-539
2501 S. State Highway 121 Bus
Suite 400
Lewisville, TX  75067

Notes:

• If you are granted reinstatement, you will need to apply for your student visa again on your next visit home.

• While your reinstatement request to USCIS is being processed and considered, maintain full-time enrollment.