

Termination Information

This information sheet outlines the consequences and available options for students with a terminated I-20.

Consequences of a terminated I-20:

- Upon termination, will need to decide what option to pursue. Depending on your choice, you may need to leave the country within 15 days of your termination.
- You will not be able to reenter the US with a terminated I-20.
- All working privileges are terminated. Any type of employment after the stated termination date is considered illegal. Employers may be subject to severe consequences for employing an illegal worker.
- All dependents will lose their F-2 status

Available options after the termination of an I-20:

1. Return to your home country within 15 days of the termination date.
2. Return to your home country within 15 days of the termination and apply for a new program of study at a new school; this will require applying for a new student visa (paying the I-901 fee, obtaining new I-20 from a new program at a new school sitting for a visa interview, etc.)
3. Transfer to a new program at a new school, and work with the new school's DSO through a reinstatement process**
 - a. Schools are not required to accept students into their program(s) who are currently in terminated status.

**** Please Note:** The reinstatement process is not guaranteed. The final approval/denial is made by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) main office.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What leads to the termination of an I-20?

Failure to maintain Status, which includes:

- Unauthorized drop below minimum course load (12 for undergraduate students, 9 for graduate students)
- Unauthorized employment
- Suspension/dismissal from program of study
- Criminal conviction
- Failure to check-in at ANU and maintain positive attendance posted for all enrolled courses within 2 weeks from scheduled term start
- Unauthorized withdrawal (UW)
- Absence from the United States for longer than 5 months

2. What is required for reinstatement? (***Please note: reinstatement is not guaranteed.*)

- Until USCIS has received your application for reinstatement, you are considered out-of-status and illegally present in the United States.
- Reinstatement requests must be made within 5 months of your termination date.
- Requests for reinstatements are decided by USCIS. An I-539 application needs to be prepared and sent to the appropriate USCIS location. (Instructions for completing the I-539 can be found on: <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-539instr.pdf>)

3. What do I need to do while my reinstatement request is pending?

- Maintain a full course load and abide by all other requirements for maintaining active status
 - If your request is not approved by USCIS, you are still expected to cover the incurred costs of your program.

4. Can I leave the United States while my application for reinstatement is pending?

- No, leaving the United States is considered an abandonment of your application

5. What happens if I do not leave the country immediately?

- Choosing to remain in the U.S. out of status is a high risk decision that we do not recommend. If you remain in the U.S., your information will be made available to Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and you risk being deported from the U.S.
- Extended stays after your termination may impact your ability to receive a US visa for later travel. All notes regarding your termination are recorded in SEVIS, and that information is used by immigration officials when you sit for a new visa. Remaining in the U.S. after you have SEVIS record is terminated is a very serious offense of immigration regulations and may prevent you from returning to the U.S. in the future.