



## ELC I-20 Extension form

**Immigration Regulation: 8CFR214.2 (F)(7)(iii) Extension of Stay**

"An F-1 student who is unable to meet the program completion date on the Form I-20 may be granted an extension by the DSO, if the DSO certifies that the student has continually maintained status and that the delays are caused by compelling academic or medical reasons, such as changes of major or research topics, unexpected research problems, or documented illnesses. Delays caused by academic probation or suspension are not acceptable reasons for program extensions. A DSO may not grant an extension if the student did not apply for an extension until after the program end date noted on the Form I-20. An F-1 student who is unable to complete the educational program within the time listed on Form I-20 and who is ineligible for program extension ... is considered out of status. If eligible, the student may apply for reinstatement..."

**Eligibility Requirements:** If you will not complete your academic program by the end date listed on your I-20, you may be eligible to request an extension of your study program, if you meet the following criteria:

1. You request an extension 2 weeks prior to the expected program end date indicated in item #5 of the I-20.
2. You have continuously maintained lawful F-1 status.
3. The delay in completing program requirements has been caused by acceptable academic and/or medical reasons. (Delays caused by academic probation, dismissal, or suspension are not acceptable reasons for extension.)
4. The request is for one year or less.

**NOTE:** If your completion of studies date has expired or if you do not meet the eligibility requirements to apply for program extension, you may need to apply for "reinstatement" of lawful F-1 status. In this case, consult the International Education Manager of Immigration and International Affairs immediately!

**Directions:**

1. Have the ELC Director sign this form confirming you are eligible for an extension.
2. Obtain updated financial support documents (a bank statement, scholarship letter, or governmental financial guarantee).
3. Make an appointment with the Immigration Coordinator ([drobb@southalabama.edu](mailto:drobb@southalabama.edu)) to submit these documents.
4. If approved, the Coordinator will email you when your new I-20 is ready for pick up in 3-5 business days. If denied, the Manager will contact you.

**Student Information:**

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 SEVIS Number: \_\_\_\_\_ J#: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**ELC Director Verification and Approval:**

As the ELC Director, I recommend that the above named student be allowed additional time to complete the current course of study due to the reason I selected below. Furthermore, I certify that the student has been continuously enrolled for a full course of study and is not seeking an extension due to **course failure, academic probation, dismissal, or suspension**. I estimate the new expected date of completion of studies to be \_\_\_\_\_ (please select a date within one year of current completion date as listed in item #5 of the student's I-20.) (NOTE: There is no immigration regulation that prohibits multiple extensions, if the student has a continued acceptable reason to extend the program.)

Check one acceptable reason for a delay in completing the program of study:

**Inadequate time on original I-20 for the average student to complete requirements.**

**Continuation of program by level progression - From: Level \_\_\_\_\_ To: Level \_\_\_\_\_**

**Medical condition:** Student must submit official documentation from a physician or licensed mental health practitioner attesting and describing the serious medical condition that delayed completion of studies. This documentation must be on the physician's or practitioner's letterhead.

ELC Director's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**For OIIA Office Only: Check one:  Approved  Denied Manager Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_**