Who needs to Renew an F1 Visa?

Your F1 visa needs to be valid for entry to the U.S. but can expire during your enrollment at the University of Illinois Springfield if you stay in the U.S. If you are studying full-time at the University of Illinois Springfield with a valid F1 status, you do NOT need to renew your F1 visa while you are in the U.S. **You only need to renew your F1 visa if you plan to travel outside of the U.S. and return to the U.S. to study. If your F1 visa expires before you travel outside of the U.S., you need to apply for a new visa to re-enter the U.S.**

How to renew your F1 visa

In general, to renew your F1 visa, you need to follow the same requirements as a student who is applying for an F1 visa for the first time. See the following page for a list of required documents. In addition to these required documents, we recommend that you also prepare the following documents to show that you are in good academic and financial standing at UIS:

1. Intent to Return to the University of Illinois Springfield Letter. (Request this letter from the ISS office.) This letter will state the following points:
   - You have stated your intent to return to UIS. (You must submit your next semester’s course schedule before you can get this letter.)
   - You are in good academic and F1 visa standing.
   - You have paid your tuition in full.

2. Copies of your most recent grades

In some rare situations, you may not be required to complete a visa interview to renew your visa. Visit the website of the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in your country for information about specific visa renewal requirements.

Where to renew your F1 Visa

You can only renew your F1 visa outside of the U.S. It is possible to renew an F1 visa in a country other than your home country, however, the U.S. Department of State recommends that you renew your visa at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in your country.

For more information about the visa renewal process, visit the following U.S. government websites:

- [Renewing Your F-1 Student Visa](#) – U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement website
- [Questions About Visas?](#) – U.S. Department of State FAQ

International Student Services, University of Illinois at Springfield, HRB 52, Springfield, IL 62703

iss@uis.edu (217) 206-6678
RENEWING YOUR F1 VISA

Documents required for F1 visa application or renewal

- I-20 form
- Online Visa Application Form DS-160
- Passport (valid six months into the future)
- One 2×2 photograph
- Visa application fee receipt
- SEVIS fee payment receipt
- Financial documents; Financial Guarantee or Bank letter showing proof that you have enough funds to cover your expenses in the U.S.
- Transcripts from previous schools you have attended (not always required)
- Other documents may be required. Check with the U.S. embassy/consulate in your country for a complete list of required documents.

For more information about qualifications, required documents, and the online visa application form, visit the U.S. Department of State’s Student Visas page.

For specific visa requirements and visa interview appointments, visit the website of the U.S. embassy or consulate in your country, visit the U.S. Department of State’s Websites of U.S. Embassies, Consulates, and Diplomatic Missions page.

For wait times to obtain a visa interview at various embassies and consulates, visit the U.S. Department of State’s Visa Wait Times – for Interview Appointments and Processing page.