

Duration of Status Reference Guide

Visa Group	Impact on US Entry/Stay Period	Action Required for Extensions/Transitions	Post-Completion Grace Period
<i>Current F-1 students</i> (admitted before Sept. 15, 2026)	Valid until the end date on current Form I-20 or 4 years, whichever is shorter. Re-entry after Sept. 15 subjects them to the new framework.	File Form I-539 with USCIS if program extends past the newly designated fixed I-94 date or travel and re-entry.	Reduced to 30 days (previously 60 days) to depart, transfer, or change status, or progressive change of degree level.
<i>Incoming F-1 students</i> (arriving on/after Sept. 15, 2026)	Admitted for program length listed on Form I-20, capped at 4 years. Form I-94 will display an expiration date.	File Form I-539 and pay fees to USCIS if degree completion requires more than 4 years (e.g. PhD tracks) or travel re-entry.	30 days post-program completion.
<i>F-1 students on OPT/STEM OPT</i>	Admitted for specific duration of approved employment authorization. A short-term reprieve from filing an extension applies may apply for students filing for OPT/STEM OPT before Mar. 18, 2027.	Must monitor I-94 dates. File formal USCIS extensions to align status if employment periods roll over. STEM OPT automatic 180-day work extensions remain unchanged.	30 days following the end of OPT or STEM OPT period.
<i>Current J-1 students</i> (admitted before Sept. 15, 2026)	Transition to a fixed date automatically. Valid until the end date on the current Form DS-2019 or 4 years, whichever is shorter.	Must file Form I-539 with USCIS to extend status if academic timelines surpass the fixed expiration or travel re-entry.	30 days (unchanged for J-1), but strictly enforced alongside the fixed I-94 date.
<i>Incoming J-1 students</i> (arriving on/after Sept. 15, 2026)	Admitted to program duration listed on Form DS-2019, capped at a maximum of 4 years.	Must work with sponsor for a new DS-2019 and submit Form I-539 to USCIS to legally extend stay.	30 days post-program completion.
<i>J-1 students on Academic Training</i>	Stay is tied strictly to the fixed end date of the approved Academic Training period.	Formal application to USCIS via Form I-539 is required to authorize the duration of stay during training.	30 days following the completion of the training period.
<i>J-1 Scholars (short-term, research professors)</i>	Admitted until a fixed date on Form I-94 matching the DS-2019, capped at 4 years.	If an extension of the research/teaching program is approved by the sponsor, the scholar must also file Form I-539 with USCIS to extend their physical stay or travel re-entry.	30 days following the end date of the exchange program.

Glossary of New Immigration Terminologies



Admit Until Date (AUD):

Specific calendar date stamped on a non-immigrant's Form I-94 marking the definitive end of their legal authorization to remain in the US. This replaces the open ended D/S.

Extension of Stay (EOS):

Formal petition (Form I-539) that a student or scholar must now file directly with USCIS including fees and possible biometric screening if they wish to remain in the US past their assigned AUD.

Fixed Period of Admission:

The new policy capping initial entry periods at the exact program length listed on the Form I-20 or DS-2019, up to a maximum of 4 years.