



F-1 students: Welcoming dependents to the U.S.

We are excited that you and your family are joining the Arizona State University community. Our culture is rooted in a diverse student body that enriches the university with global perspectives. We are committed to inclusion and ensuring that your family feels at home while you are enrolled at ASU.

ASU believes in inspiring global citizens — creating an environment where students from around the world find a welcoming community and helpful support as they work toward making a positive impact on the world. That support begins with the International Students and Scholars Center, which serves ASU's international community through guidance on maintaining legal status, visa and travel information, and opportunities to connect with other students.



issc.asu.edu

F-1 students:

Information for dependents

If you are an F-1 student, you may be able to bring your spouse and children to the U.S. by applying for an F-2 dependent visa. To do so, you must submit a financial guarantee to cover additional living expenses for your dependents when requesting your I-20. ASU requires additional financial guarantees for your dependents in order to issue your I-20. For the 2019–2020 academic year, the guaranteed amount required is \$7,000 for your spouse and \$5,000 per child. As an F-1 student, it is your responsibility to have these funds on hand so your dependents can maintain their legal status. **F-2 dependents cannot work or study full time at a university unless they apply for the appropriate visa category to do so.** These requirements are U.S. law, not ASU guidelines.

Learn more at studyinthestates.dhs.gov/dependents.

Process to request or change an F-2 dependent I-20

- For newly admitted students, ASU Admission Services will issue the I-20 for the student and accompanying dependents.
- For continuing students, the International Students and Scholars Center will process an e-Form filled out by the student. The ISSC provides immigration advising on the Change of Status process from F-2 to F-1.
- Dependents of F-1 students who need to update or change their visa status should consult with their immigration advisor at the ISSC.

issc.asu.edu/status/students/dependents

SEVIS/Visa compliance for F-2 dependents

- F-2 dependents are in legal immigration status as long as the F-1 student maintains their status throughout their program of study, and during any authorized period of Optional Practical Training after degree completion.
- An F-2 dependent may depart and re-enter the U.S. with proper documentation.
- F-2 dependents may not work and are not eligible for Social Security numbers.
- An F-2 dependent spouse may engage in academic study as long as they are enrolled in a course of study that is **less than full time**.
- F-2 dependent children may attend public or private schools.
- F-2 dependent children must change their visa status before turning 21 years old.

Work and study options for an F-2 dependent in the U.S.

- If an F-2 dependent is admitted to a degree program and wants to study full time, they must change their visa status to an F-1 student visa. This can be done in one of two ways:
 1. Travel to their home country and obtain an F-1 student visa.**OR**
 2. Apply for a change to F-1 status in the U.S.
 - This process takes approximately three to six months.

egov.uscis.gov/processing-times

 - The student may not work on campus prior to receiving the approval of their F-1 student visa status.
- An F-2 dependent may change to an employment-related visa, which allows them to work for a particular employer.

uscis.gov/working-united-states/working-us

Information for ASU units when waiting to hire an individual on F-2 status

- An F-2 dependent must change their visa status to be eligible to work at ASU.
- Contact the ISSC for general employment guidance for international employees at ISSC@asu.edu.
- Connect the prospective employee to the ISSC to get the appropriate immigration advisement and/or documentation to change to an ASU-sponsored employment visa status.

Contact ISSC

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
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