

F-1 Students: Adding a Dependent (F-2)

Who can I add as my F-2 Dependent?

If you are studying at the University of Utah on an F-1 visa, your spouse or unmarried minor children (under 21 years of age) are eligible to apply for an F-2 dependent visa. The dependent is added to the primary F-1 student's SEVIS record, and will receive their own I-20 and SEVIS number.

Note: An F-1 dependent's status is dependent on the F-1's status. If the F-1's status expires, is terminated, or the F-1 leaves the US permanently, the F-2's status also ends.

Applying for your dependent's I-20:

F-2 dependents are added to the F-1 student's SEVIS record and are given their own F-2 dependent I-20. To request this document, you will need to complete the **"Dependent Application" E-Form** using the UAtlas link found at the ISSS website: www.iss.utah.edu. Dependent I-20s have a processing time of up to 10 business days.

Along with inputting biographical information about your dependent (name, date of birth, citizenship, etc.), the following documents must be uploaded to this E-form:

- Copy of dependent's **biographical (photo) page from passport**
- Copy of **marriage certificate** (for spouse) or **birth certificate** (for child)
- Copy of F-1's **I-20**
- **Financial support document** with additional \$6,000 per dependent to support each dependent for one year.
 - <http://iss.utah.edu/forms-publications/documents/Handout-financial-support-documents.pdf>
- **Affidavit of Support** form (required only if the bank statement provided is from another source other than the student or scholar).
 - <http://iss.utah.edu/forms-publications/documents/affidavit-of-support.pdf>

NOTE: Once you receive your dependent's I-20, you sign this document at the bottom of the first page. Your dependent should not sign their I-20 – only the F-1 primary signs this document.

After receiving your F-2 dependent's I-20:

OPTION 1: Your dependent is travelling to Utah from outside the US

If your dependent is travelling to Utah from outside the US, your dependent will need to apply for an F-2 visa at the US Embassy or Consulate in their country of citizenship. Your dependent will need to bring their new F-2 dependent I-20 to their visa interview.

For more information about this process and the additional documents your dependent will need to present at their visa interview, please refer to visa application information on the US embassy or consulate's website, or contact them directly.

OPTION 2: Your dependent is already in the US on another visa status

If your spouse or child is currently in the US on another visa status and wishes to change their visa status to F-2 without departing the US, please schedule an appointment with an ISSS advisor to discuss the process and timeline of the Change of Status application process.

Dependents and Travel:

- F-2 dependents may depart and re-enter the US independently of the F-1 student as long as the F-1 is in active student status.
- F-2 dependents must carry the following documents when entering the US:
 - **Passport** (valid for at least six months beyond period of stay in the US)
 - Valid **F-2 visa stamp** in their passport
 - **Dependent I-20** with valid **Travel Signature**
 - **Copies** of Primary F-1 student's most current immigration documents: passport, I-20, F-1 visa stamp, I-94 (*if travelling separately*)
 - If the primary F-1 is currently working on post-completion OPT, F-2 dependents should carry **copies** of the F-1's OPT I-20, EAD card, and job offer letter.
- If the F-1 student travels outside the US without their dependent(s): the F-2 dependent(s) may remain in the US, as long as the F-1 student is in active status and will return after a temporary absence using the same SEVIS number.

- If the F-1 student travels outside the US after their official Program End Date and has not applied for post-completion OPT, the F-2 must also depart the US at that time, and cannot re-enter on the current program.

Frequently asked Questions

I am engaged. Do I need to be married in order to receive an F-2 dependent I-20?

You may request an F-2 dependent I-20 without having an official marriage certificate, and your spouse may be added to your SEVIS record before you are legally married. However, you must be legally married and have a physical copy of your marriage certificate by the time you apply for the F-2 visa at your US Embassy or Consulate or before you submit a Change of Status application to USCIS (if dependent is changing status in the US).

Is my dependent allowed to study?

Yes, F-2 spouses and adult children may participate in incidental study (e.g., take English language classes) and may study less than full time in a degree seeking program. For undergraduate students, “part time” is anything under 12 credits; for graduate students, part time is anything under 9 credits (or 3 thesis credits).

F-2 children may study full-time at US public schools (kindergarten through 12th grade).

Is my dependent allowed to work?

No, F-2 dependents cannot lawfully work in the US, and are not eligible to apply for a Social Security Number (SSN).

Can I add my unmarried domestic partner, significant other, parent, sibling, cousin, or friend as my F-2 dependent?

No. You cannot add anyone other than your legally married spouse or children as your F-2 dependent.

My dependent has A) changed visa type, B) permanently departed the US, or C) our relationship has changed. How do I remove my dependent from my SEVIS record?

To remove your dependent from your SEVIS record, please submit the “**Remove Dependent Request**” E-form through UAtlas on the ISSS website. You will need to sign, scan, and upload the “Voluntary Termination Request” to this E-form.



If your dependent has **changed their visa status**, you will be asked to upload evidence of this change (I-797 receipt notice showing Change of Status approval).

If you and our dependent spouse have **divorced**, you will be asked to upload a copy of the official divorce decree.

***Disclaimer:** International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) provides support and information related to U.S. immigration laws and regulations related to F and J status at the University of Utah. ISSS staff are not attorneys and any information provided by ISSS should not be construed as legal advice. Individuals are welcome to consult a qualified immigration attorney for specific legal advice, particularly in complicated cases. For a list of local Utah attorneys please visit our website [here](#).*

***Maintaining Status:** USCIS states that it is the student's responsibility to understand the rules and regulations governing their visa.*