



DS-2019 Extension Guide for Degree-Seeking J-1 Students


What is a DS-2019 Extension?

An extension of your DS-2019 is an action that provides more time for you to complete your Exchange Visitor program. If you are unable to finish your degree program by the end date noted on your DS-2019, you can request an extension of your program. An extension must be completed before the end date of the DS-2019, and the length of time allowed for an extension is based on a recommendation from your academic advisor.

Eligibility for an Extension:

- In order to be eligible for an extension, you must be currently maintaining status, making normal progress towards the completion of degree, and have academic requirements remaining.
- The request should be received by the Office of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) at least 2 weeks prior to the expiration date on your current DS-2019. If the extension request is made after this 2 week period, there is no guarantee that the request will be processed before the DS-2019 expiration date. Failure to request an extension before the end date on your DS-2019 may result in a denial of your request.

How to apply for an Extension:

1. To request an extension, please complete a **J-1 Student Extension** E-form using the iStart link  found at www.ic.utah.edu. Be prepared to upload your current DS-2019, Financial Support Documentation, and your Academic Advisor's contact information.
2. The ISSS Office will contact you when your new DS-2019 it is ready to pick up. Please allow two weeks for processing.

Important Considerations:

- You are allowed to request an extension from a minimum of one semester to a maximum of one year (not more than one year from current DS-2019 expiration date).
- The processing time for a DS-2019 extension is two weeks.
- You must submit a **full and complete** e-form to ISSS for an extension **on or prior to the end date** listed on your DS-2019. If you submit an e-form **after the end date** on the DS-2019, or fail to submit complete information, your extension request may be denied.
- If an extension is not requested or completed prior to the program end date on your DS-2019, you will be out of status and reinstatement may be necessary in order to remain legally in the US to continue your studies.



Financial Support:

- Host academic department financial support is accepted if you are a GA, TA, or RA.
- If you are funded by your host department, please include your job title (GA, TA, or RA), income, and other benefits covered such as tuition waiver and health insurance.
- If you are requesting an extension for one semester, we will divide **the Estimated Expenses for Graduates or Undergraduates** used by the University of Utah Office of Admissions by two (two semesters), and then compare this amount to the financial documents you have provided to ensure that the minimum requirements have been met.
- If financial support from the host department does not adequately cover all of the anticipated expenses, or is not applicable, we will request proof of additional financial support.
- All financial support must be liquid assets (readily available to pay tuition, rent, etc.) per the University of Utah Office of International Admissions. Property and other illiquid assets, such as a government bond that cannot be redeemed for 2 years, will not be accepted as financial support.
- If you are submitting your own financial support, such as a personal bank statement, your name must be clearly identified as owner of the account on your bank statement. If you are financially supported by another individual, an affidavit of support must be submitted along with their bank statement.
- Sponsored Students must submit their financial guarantee letter as their financial support document.

Please Note:

This policy guide is for degree-seeking J-1 students only. If you are a non-degree seeking exchange student on a J-1 visa and would like to extend your DS-2019, please call the ISSS office at **801-581-8876** and schedule a Sponsored Student Advising appointment as soon as possible to discuss your situation.