



## Change of Status to F1 outside the U.S.

Instead of applying for a change of status to F1 with USCIS in the United States, you may also obtain valid F1 status through traveling. This means that you must obtain an “initial attendance” Form I-20 from the International Office and apply for the F1 visa at a U.S. consulate outside the United States.

Please follow the steps outline below in order to obtain valid F1 status:

**First step:** Send an email to the International Office at [intlservices@academyart.edu](mailto:intlservices@academyart.edu). Provide your name and student ID as well as a scanned copy of the following documents:

1. Completed Affidavit of Support – This form must be completed and signed by you, your sponsor must state that they agree to support your financially throughout the duration of your studies at AAU.
2. Financial Document - A letter or certificate with official signature from the bank. This document must show financial recourses from your sponsor equivalent to at least \$36,600.00 U.S. dollars per year available to you to support your studies here in the U.S. This letter must be in English. If you have dependents (children; spouse) you must provide an additional \$5000 per dependent.
3. Passport page for you and additional dependents

**Second step:** Request your Official Transcript from AAU online at:  
<http://www.academyart.edu/content/aau/en/students/my-academy/academic-resources/registrar.html>

**Third step:** Pay the I-901 SEVIS Fee. This fee can be paid online upon receipt of your new I-20. For more information and to pay the \$200 SEVIS fee, please go to:  
<https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/students/formSelection.htm>.

**Fourth step:** Contact the US embassy/ consulate in the city you would like to go to for your visa interview. You may be able to set up an interview appointment online or by phone. For more information regarding documents needed for the F1 visa and setting up an interview appointment, please visit the US embassy website.

**Fifth step:** Work with your academic advisor regarding class registration. Please be aware that your academic advisor will not be able to register you for on campus classes until we issued an I-20.

**Sixth step:** check in with our office upon your arrival in San Francisco. Please make sure to bring your Form I-20, passport and printed I-94 when you check in with us.