Extensions

F-1 & J-1 students who do not complete their program of study by the expiration date noted on their I-20 or DS-2019 form must apply for a program extension before the I-20/DS-2019 expiration date. Failure to extend your stay could jeopardize your legal status and require that you depart the U.S. or file with USCIS for reinstatement of your student status.

Applying for an Extension

Graduate School of Arts & Sciences PhD Students

PhD students in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences who have not completed the dissertation by the end of the sixth year of study may request a period of extended registration from the Graduate School. Below are the steps you should take.

1. Obtain academic approval of the extension from your Director of Graduate Studies.
2. Submit your most recent Dissertation Progress Report (DPR) [1].
3. Apply for the extension. Full instructions on 7th or 8th year extended registration can be found on the GSAS Academic Requirements [2] website.
4. Upon approval you will receive a letter from the Graduate School approving the request for extension.
5. Be in contact with your OISS adviser. Forward this approval letter to them, and submit evidence of funding to support the extension.
   - This evidence of funding may consist of an award letter, Yale assistantship letter, and/or bank or investment statement.
   - The amount of financial support required will need to be sufficient to cover tuition and fees and living expenses for the first year of the extended period. If the extended period is just for one semester, only one semester's funding evidence will be required. This budget amount will vary based on your program of study.
   - If funded by Yale, please contact GSAS Financial Aid [3] to obtain an updated letter of funding
6. Your OISS adviser will review your request. If there are questions, you will be contacted via email.
7. OISS will issue a new immigration document (I-20 or DS-2019) to reflect the end date of the approved extended period and the new funding. You should keep this document along with any previously issued immigration documents for your records.

Important Note:
A program extension will extend your immigration document (I-20/DS-2019), but not your visa stamp. You are permitted to remain in the U.S. with a valid immigration document and expired visa stamp, but the next time you travel out of the U.S. and wish to reenter, you will need to apply for a new visa stamp at a U.S. Consulate prior to your return to the U.S.

Graduate School of Arts & Sciences Masters Students

In rare circumstances, Master's students may apply for an extended period of stay.

1. You must meet with your academic adviser, your DGS and ultimately gain approval from the Associate Dean of the Graduate School.
2. Upon approval you will receive a letter from the Graduate School approving the request for extension.
3. Be in contact with your OISS adviser. Forward this approval letter to them, and submit evidence of funding to support the extension.
   - This evidence of funding may consist of an award letter, Yale assistantship letter, and/or bank or
investment statement.
- The amount of financial support required will need to be sufficient to cover tuition and fees and living expenses for the first year of the extended period. If the extended period is just for one semester, only one semester's funding evidence will be required. This budget amount will vary based on your program of study.
- If funded by Yale, please contact GSAS Financial Aid [3] to obtain an updated letter of funding

4. Your OISS adviser will review your request. If there are questions, you will be contacted via email.

5. OISS will issue a new immigration document (I-20 or DS-2019) to reflect the end date of the approved extended period and the new funding. You should keep this document along with any previously issued immigration documents for your records.

Important Note:
A program extension will extend your immigration document (I-20/DS-2019), but not your visa stamp. You are permitted to remain in the U.S with a valid immigration document and expired visa stamp, but the next time you travel out of the U.S. and wish to reenter, you will need to apply for a new visa stamp at a U.S. Consulate prior to your return to the U.S.

Graduate School of Arts & Sciences Visiting Assistants in Research (VAR)

Graduate School of Arts & Sciences Visiting Assistants in Research (VAR) must first contact the Graduate School dean that signed their letter of admission for instructions on applying for an extension. If approved, the Graduate School will notify OISS of the extension approval.

Yale College and Professional School Students

1. Meet with your academic adviser or dean to discuss the extension.
2. Your adviser or dean should complete and sign the F-1 [4] or J-1 [5] recommendation form and forward it to your OISS adviser.
3. Gather evidence of funding:
   - This may consist of an award letter, Yale assistantship letter, and/or bank or investment statement.
   - The amount of financial support required will need to be sufficient to cover tuition and fees and living expenses for the first year of the extended period. If the extended period is just for one semester, only one semester's funding evidence will be required. This budget amount will vary based on your program of study.
4. Meet with your OISS adviser to submit the extension approval letter and evidence of funding.
5. Your OISS adviser will review your request. If there are questions, you will be contacted via email.
6. OISS will issue a new immigration document (I-20 or DS-2019) to reflect the end date of the approved extended period and the new funding. You should keep this document along with any previously issued immigration documents for your records.

Important Note:
A program extension will extend your immigration document (I-20/DS-2019), but not your visa stamp. You are permitted to remain in the U.S with a valid immigration document and expired visa stamp, but the next time you travel out of the U.S. and wish to reenter, you will need to apply for a new visa stamp at a U.S. Consulate prior to your return to the U.S.

Source URL: https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/f-1-and-j-1-students/requirements-in-detail/extensions

Links
[2] https://gsas.yale.edu/academic-requirements/registration-courses/student-registration-