Extensions

J-1 students who do not complete their program of study by the expiration date noted on the DS-2019 form must apply for a program extension before the DS-2019 expiration date. Failure to extend your stay could jeopardize your legal status and will result in your having to file an application with the U.S. Department of State for reinstatement to status (with a $367 fee).

Obtain Academic Approval of the Extension from Your Program

Graduate School of Arts & Sciences PhD Students

Graduate School of Arts & Sciences PhD Students 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. Full instructions on this process can be found in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Policies and Regulations. If approved, the student will be given a letter from the Graduate School approving the request for extension and on the basis of that letter and evidence of funding per below, OISS will extend the student's DS-2019 and J-1 status.

Graduate School of Arts & Sciences Masters Students

Graduate School of Arts & Sciences Masters Students must complete the Graduate School extended registration process. You must meet with your academic adviser, your DGS and ultimately gain approval from the Associate Dean of the Graduate School. Upon approval you will receive a letter from the Graduate School approving the request for extension and on the basis of that letter and evidence of funding per below, OISS will extend the student's DS-2019 and J-1 status.

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

Meet with your academic adviser or Dean to discuss the extension and to have your adviser/Dean complete and sign the recommendation form.

Proof of Financial Support for Extended Period

For example, an award letter, Yale assistantship letter, and 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.

Submission

Submit both your formal academic approval letter and evidence of financial support to the OISS office during open hours and ask to meet with an adviser.

OISS will issue a new DS-2019 to reflect the end date of the approved extended period and the new funding. You should keep this DS-2019 along with any previously issued DS-2019's for your records.
Please note: The extension procedure will extend your DS-2019 but not your visa stamp. If you have an expired visa stamp in your passport, you are permitted to remain in the U.S. with a valid DS-2019. However, the next time you travel out of the U.S. and need to reenter, you will still need to apply for a new visa stamp at a U.S. Consulate prior to your return to the U.S.

Maintaining Health Insurance: In extending your J-1 stay you must also be certain to extend your health insurance coverage. Failure to do so will result in the termination of your J-1 status.

Source URL: https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/j-1-students/maintaining-legal-status/extensions

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