BRINGING DEPENDENTS TO THE U.S.: 
HOW TO OBTAIN F-2 I-20’s FOR YOUR DEPENDENT(S)

F-1 students often wish to bring their spouse and/or children to the U.S. In order to do so, you will need to provide some documentation so that we can issue F-2 I-20(s) for your dependent(s).

Please review the list below, prepare the necessary documents and bring them to ISSS, Talbert Hall 210, North Campus. We will then create a new I-20 for you (indicating that you have a dependent) and F-2 I-20(s) for your dependent(s).

Required documents:

1. **Copy of your marriage certificate (if adding a spouse).** This document should be translated by a certified translator.

2. **Copy of the biographic page of each dependent’s passport.**

3. **Financial documents.** These documents must show that you can financially support yourself and your dependents while you reside in the U.S. Please review our requirements regarding financial documents at [www.buffalo.edu/intlservices/documents/FinancialDocumentationLH2012.pdf](http://www.buffalo.edu/intlservices/documents/FinancialDocumentationLH2012.pdf). ISSS will also provide an estimate of costs to assist you in preparing proper financial documents.

4. **Dependent health insurance form.** ISSS will give this form to you. By reading and signing this form, you agree to purchase health insurance for your dependent(s) to cover them during their entire stay in the U.S.

5. **Proof of full-time course registration.** You must be registered full-time or have Full-time Certification from the Graduate School or an approved Reduced Course Load from ISSS to be eligible to add a dependent. You may be asked to show proof of full-time certification if it has yet to be entered into HUB.

If your dependent will change his/her immigration status in the U.S., then you and your dependent must meet with an International Student Advisor to discuss the change of status application. Please inform us if your dependent already has an immigration status in the U.S. and we will provide you with the necessary documents.

Once your dependent receives the F-2 visa and enters the U.S. as an F-2 or receives the change-of-status approval by mail, you must bring copies of his/her immigration documents (I-20, passport and visa or approval notice) to ISSS, Talbert Hall 210.

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