

F-2 Dependent I-20 Information

What is an F-2 Visa?

An F-2 is a visa for a dependent of an F-1 student in the U.S. F-2 dependents may remain in the U.S. as long as the F-1 student maintains good status. Spouses and children are classified as dependents.

Please note:

- F-2 dependents are **not** eligible for any paid employment in the U.S.
- Children **may** attend nursery, primary and secondary school while on a dependent I-20.
- Spouses and children are **not** authorized to study full time at the college level while on a dependent I-20. A change of Status to F-1 may be required.
- International health Insurance is **strongly** encouraged and may be added to the policy of the primary F1 student.

Who is eligible to obtain an F-2 or Dependent I-20?

- Any child of an F-1 student under the age of 21
- A spouse, male or female, as recognized under US Federal Law

Please note: If the dependent is already in the U.S. on another visa, the dependent must complete a *Change of Status* (COS) in order to become an F-2. This memo does not discuss COS.

What is needed to apply for a dependent I-20?

- Copy of the dependent's passport
- Copy of the marriage certificate if the I-20 is for a spouse, or copy of birth certificate(s) if the I-20 is for a child or children.
- Original financial document, such as a bank statement or pay stub, showing an additional yearly amount of \$4,500 for a spouse or \$2,500 for each child. Depending on the primary source of funding for the F1 student, these funds may need to come from the F1's own sources.
- Financial Verification and Certification Form

The F-1 student must apply on the F2's behalf to obtain the I-20. Upon receipt of these documents, the ISSO will issue an I-20 document for each dependent and a new I-20 document for the F-1 student. The student is the signatory for the dependent(s) I-20 document(s). The dependent will use the I-20 document to apply for an F-2 visa.

What should the F-2 bring to the visa appointment?

- Passport
- Copy of student's passport (all pages, including visa and I-94)
- Original Marriage Certificate (for a spouse) or Original Birth Certificate (for a child)
- Original dependent I-20
- Copy of student's I-20
- Original financial documents (bank statement and affidavit, if applicable)
- Proof of ties to home country
- Other documents as required (See the consulate website for details)

