

F-2 Dependents- Spouses and children

The spouse and unmarried minor children (under age 21) of the F-1 student may be admitted into the U.S. in F-2 classification, if each dependent presents a SEVIS Form I-20 issued in their own name and an F-2 visa.

Documents Needed to Apply for an F-2 Visa:

- Valid passport
- Passport photograph
- F-2 dependent SEVIS Form I-20
- Visa application fee
- DS-160 Application confirmation
- Supporting documentation including copies of the F-1 student's immigration documents, proof of student status, financial documentation
- Documents that establish the relationship with the F-1 student such as a marriage certificate for spouses or birth certificate for children.

Once the F-1 student has completed their studies and has left the U.S. the F-2 dependents must depart as well.

Dependent children over age 21 are no longer eligible to F-2 status and will need to change to another status such as F-1 (for full-time students) if they wish to stay in the U.S. At the end of the F-1 program, there is a 60-day grace period during which the F-1/F-2 individuals may stay in the U.S. However, once the F-1 primary leaves the U.S., the F-2 dependents must leave as well.

Employment: The F-2 spouse, and children of an F-1 student may not accept employment in the U.S. However, they may do volunteer work as long as there is no compensation of any kind, and the F-2 dependent is doing a job usually done by volunteers.

Study: F-2 dependents of F-1 students in the United States may study part-time at the postsecondary level in any certified program at an SEVP-certified school, as long as the study does not amount to what regulations define as full-time for an F-1 student.

F-2 dependents may also study full-time in vocational or recreational studies such as hobbies.

F-2 minor children must comply with compulsory education requirements in attending kindergarten through 12th grade.

However, an F-2 dependent who wants to enroll full-time in a course of postsecondary academic or vocational study must apply for and obtain approval to change nonimmigrant status to F-1, J-1, or M-1 before beginning their full-time study.

A student's spouse and dependent children are allowed to enter the U.S. under an F-2 visa while the student is enrolled as a full-time student in an on-campus program.

Applicants should specify in the Initial I-20 Request Form if they will be bringing dependents into the United States with them. They must also complete supplemental-Request for I-20 so that each person entering the U.S. may be issued a document.