

THE END OF DURATION OF STATUS: HOW WILL IT IMPACT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS?

Ilana Smith
Director, International Offices
July 21, 2026

AGENDA

Note: this presentation reflects our current understanding of the new rule and can change

- Overview of the Final Rule
- D/S vs Admit Until Date (AUD)
- Timeline
- Transition Rules
- I-539 Extensions of Stay Applications
- Academic Restrictions
- Next Steps
- Questions

OVERVIEW OF THE NEW RULE

Establishing a fixed time period of admission and an extension of stay procedure for nonimmigrant academic students, exchange visitors, and representatives of foreign information media

Note: This reflects our current understanding of the new rule and can change

- Fixed-date admissions to the United States.
- F-1 grace period reduced from 60 to 30 days.
- Extensions by filing Form I-539 extension of stay application with USCIS or accomplished by travel and reentry.
- Transition provisions for Fs and Js in the United States on September 15, 2026.
- Restrictions on transfers and changes of educational objectives for F-1s.
- J-1s must report name and/or address changes within 10 calendar days.

NEW RULE – D/S VS. AUD

6/5/25, 12:21 PM I-94 Official Website - Get Most Recent I-94 Response

For: FIRST NAME LAST NAME

 **U.S. Customs and Border Protection**
Securing America's Borders

Most Recent I-94

Note to employers, local, state or federal agency granting benefits:
Please visit the CBP I-94 Public Website and click on the tab for "Get Most Recent I-94" to perform a search for the applicant to confirm that the biographic and travel information displayed on this I-94 printout matches the "Get Most Recent I-94" returned results for this applicant. I-94 FAQs: (<https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/#/faq>)

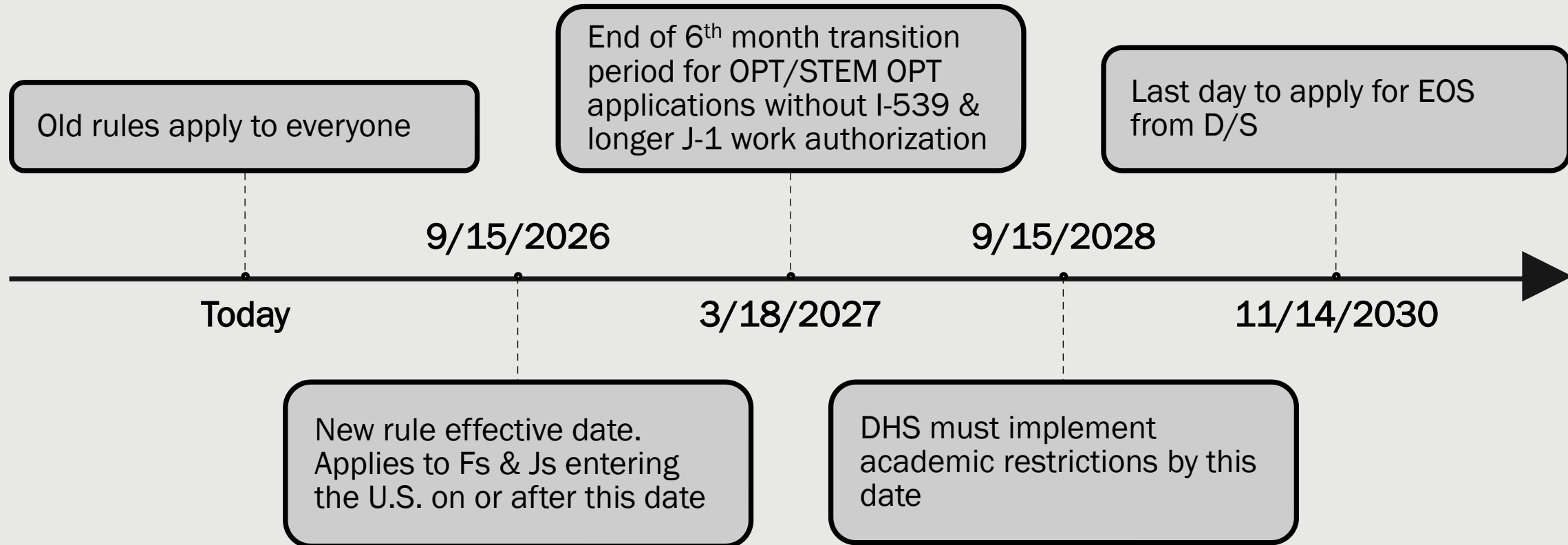
Admission I-94 Record Number: 123456789A2
Arrival/Issued Date: 2025 May 30
Class of Admission: F1
Admit Until Date: **D/S** ←
Details provided on the I-94 Information form:

Last/Surname: LAST NAME
First (Given)
Birth Date:
Document I
Country of:

Admission (I-94) Record Number : [REDACTED]
Most Recent Date of Entry: 2019 June 25
Class of Admission : B2
Admit Until Date : **07/05/2019**
Details provided on the I-94 Information form:

- Admit Until Date (AUD) will be the I-20 or DS-2019 program end date, up to 4 years, + 30-day grace period
 - *Ph.D. student with I-20 program dates of 9/18/2025 – 8/31/2031*
 - Travels abroad, enters U.S. in Dec 2026: I-94 AUD will be 10/18/2029
 - *J-1 postdoc with DS-2019 program dates of 9/18/2025 – 9/17/2028*
 - Travels abroad, enters U.S. in Dec 2026: I-94 AUD will be 10/17/2028
 - *BS student with I-20 program dates of 9/18/2026 – 6/30/2030*
 - Enters U.S. on 9/16/2026: I-94 AUD will be 7/30/2030

TIMELINE



TRANSITION RULES

F-1

- Current F-1s in U.S. on 9/15/26 retain D/S until their I-20 program end date, OPT/STEM OPT end date, or up to 4 years, + 60-day grace period,
- Current F-1s with D/S with pending I-765 EAD applications for OPT/STEM OPT do not need to do anything.
- Current F-1s with D/S can file for OPT/STEM OPT without an I-539 EOS between 9/15/26 and 3/18/27.
 - *Current F-1s will need to file an I-539 EOS and I-765 EAD applications for OPT/STEM OPT on or after 3/19/27.*
- If a current F-1 reenters the U.S. after 9/15/26, they will be readmitted under the new rules:
 - *With an Admit Until Date (AUD), up to 4 years + 30-day grace period.*
 - *Will need to file an I-539 EOS and I-765 EAD applications for OPT/STEM OPT*
 - *Will need to file an I-539 for extensions*

TRANSITION RULES

J-1

- Current J-1s in U.S. on 9/15/26 retain D/S until their DS-2019 program end date, AT end date, or up to 4 years, + 30-day grace period,
- If a current J-1 reenters the U.S. after 9/15/26, they will be readmitted under the new rules:
 - *With an Admit Until Date (AUD), up to 4 years + 30-day grace period.*
 - *Will need to file an I-539 EOS for extensions, including Academic Training*
- J-1s who file an I-539 EOS on or before 3/18/2027, maintain work authorization while EOS is pending, up to DS-2019 program end date.

I-539 EXTENSIONS OF STAY

- Filed with USCIS, will require biometrics, and possibly an interview
- Current filing fees
 - *Electronic: \$420*
 - *Paper (includes dependents): \$470*
- Timing
 - *USCIS currently states 5 months*
- Work authorization
 - *If filed before 30-day grace period, F and J work authorization extended for up to 240 days while application is pending*
 - *If filed during 30-day grace period, F status continues without work authorization; J retains work authorization for up to 240 days while application is pending*
 - *If filed after the 30-day grace period, reinstatement/correction would be needed first and no work authorization while pending*
- Travel and reentry with valid visa may be an alternative

ACADEMIC RESTRICTIONS

DHS could delay implementation

- Academic restrictions: DHS could delay due to infeasibility for up to 2 years
 - *Undergraduates or nondegree students only allowed to transfer or change of educational objectives (major and level) after completing one year*
 - *Graduate students prohibited from changing educational objectives (major)*
 - *Graduate students prohibited from transferring without extenuating circumstances*
 - *Maintenance of F-1 status during period between moving from one educational level to a higher educational level*
 - *Prohibition on lateral or reverse matriculation (cannot move to a new program at the same or lower level) if first program completed on or after 9/15/2026*
- Transition processes: DHS could delay in 6-month increments
 - *I-539 exemption for OPT/STEM applications*
 - *J-1 work authorization while I-539s are pending*
- Will need to be published in the Federal Register

NEXT STEPS

- Continuing to understand the new rule
- Hosting targeted sessions with international students and scholars
- Working with campus and lab community
- Scheduling trainings for administrators



QUESTIONS

- We have them, too!