

Navigating the End of Duration of Status (D/S)

Travel & Reentry and Extensions of Stay (EOS)

*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, published July 17, 2026*



#YouAreWelcomeHere is a welcome message from U.S. higher education to international students around the world. It is a campaign designed to affirm that our institutions are diverse, friendly, safe and committed to student development. The repetition of the statement, “You are welcome here,” demonstrates that we support internationalization across our campus communities and across the country.

www.youarewelcomehereusa.org

Federal Lawsuit Filed

Challenging the rule to end duration of status

On Tuesday, August 18, **NAFSA** and the **Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration** led a coalition of six other organizations in filing a complaint and a motion for preliminary injunction that challenges the DHS final rule ending the Duration of Status framework for international students, exchange visitors, and representatives of foreign media.

ISP Team

ISP remains available to you by email, Walk-In Hours, phone, and Zoom!

We are Tong, Tiffany, Daniel, and Laura! Find us at isp@caltech.edu

Authorized Period of Stay

Admit Until Date (AUD)

- I-94 AUD will be the Program End Date on the I-20 or DS-2019, not to exceed 4 years, plus a **30-day** grace period
- Does not change the actual academic period the school puts on the SEVIS Document.
- Instead, AUD limits the period of admission that CBP or USCIS gives on the I-94
- Caution: AUD may be limited to Passport Expiration Date
- Legacy D/S in transition: Do not need a new I-94 but are **still bound by new rule**

Example of Legacy D/S

- If no international travel, F-1 student retains 60-day grace period
- If travels and reenters, F-1 student will receive 30-day grace period

Q: What's the difference between the Program End Date listed on my I-20 SEVIS Document and my AUD?

A: The SEVIS Program End Date is based on the average length of time needed to complete the program of study. The “program period” remains unchanged with the new rule.

The AUD is the authorized period of stay. The new rule limits the authorized period of stay to 4 years (+ grace period) or to the SEVIS Program End Date, whichever is SHORTER.

Q: I am already in my program for over four years. How does traveling abroad after 9/15/2026 impact my AUD?

A: The grace period gets shortened. Before 9/15/2026, your I-94 showed D/S which carries a 60-day grace period. If you travel and reenter after 9/15/2026, your I-94 will show a fixed-date AUD which carries a 30-day grace period.

Q: How do I calculate my grace period?

A: Your grace period depends on your most recent I-94.

- 60-day grace period, if I-94 shows D/S
- 30-day grace period, if I-94 shows a Fixed Date

Retrieve, Review, Print I-94 after EACH U.S. entry

<https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/search/recent-search>

Q: I've already been at Caltech for 3 years. Do I only have 1 year left?

A: No. It's **not about the SEVIS Program Start Date! It's about the SEVIS Program End Date. Let's calculate your AUD:**

Current Student inside United States:

from 9/15/2026 + 4 years = 09/14/2030 + grace period

- OR -

SEVIS Program End Date (if earlier than 9/14/2030) + grace period



Subsequent Travel & Reentry to the U.S.:

U.S. Entry Date + 4 years + 30-day grace period

- OR -

SEVIS Program End Date + 30-day grace period

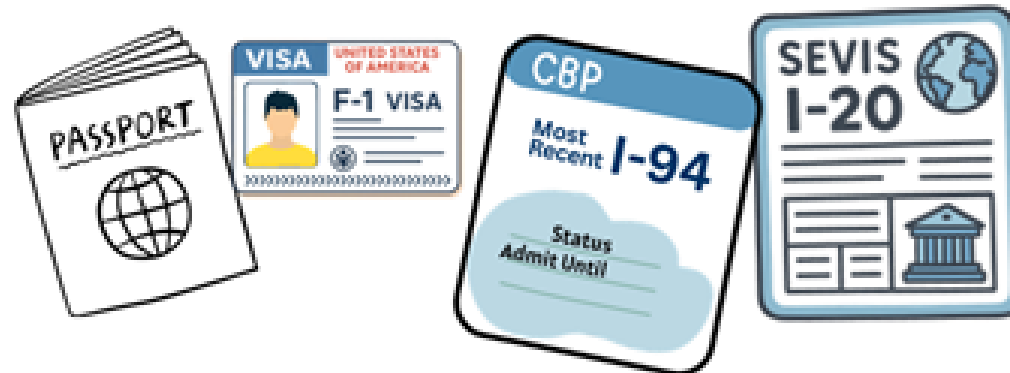
Whichever is SHORTER

Q: What happens to the AUD when I renew my expired visa and return to the U.S.?

A: The AUD is still calculated the same as we reviewed on the previous slide.

The Visa is NOT impacted by the new rule

- The visa is issued by the U.S. Consulate / U.S. Department of State (DOS)
- SEVIS Document and I-94 are issued by Department of Homeland Security (DHS)



Q: Do the 4 years reset at every U.S. entry?

A: Not necessarily. The AUD depends on the Program End Date.

Remember the AUD calculation:

- 4 years maximum from date of entry + 30-day grace period
- OR -
- SEVIS Program End Date + 30-day grace period

Whichever is SHORTER

Caltech PHD G2 (as of Fall 2026)

- Program Start Date = 09/18/2025
- Program End Date = 08/31/2031
- Rule Effective Date = 09/15/2026
- AUD = 11/14/2030 (4 years from 9/15/2026 + 60-day grace period, if no travel)
- AUD = 4 years from Entry Date + 30-day grace period, if travel

Q: Do I need to apply for EOS?

A: If you do not intend to complete the degree by your AUD minus grace period, apply for EOS.

Q: Why not “by AUD”?

A: Because the grace period is for non-academic purposes and not for employment.

Caltech PHD G4 (as of Fall 2026)

- Program Start Date = 09/18/2023
- Program End Date = 08/31/2029
- Rule Effective Date = 09/15/2026
- AUD = 10/30/2029 (Program End Date + 60-day grace period, if no travel)
- AUD = 09/30/2029 (Program End Date + 30-day grace period, if travel)

Q: Why do we calculate AUD from Program End Date?

A: Because the remaining time until Program End Date is shorter than 4 years.

Caltech PHD G2 (as of Fall 2026)

- Program Start Date = 09/18/2025
- Program End Date = 08/31/2031
- AUD = 11/14/2030 (4 years from 9/15/2026 + 60-day grace period, if no travel)
- AUD = 10/14/2030 (4 years from 9/15/2026 + 30-day grace period, if travel)

Q: The Graduate Office is accepting Extended Registration Petitions now through 08/27/2026. My SEVIS Program End Date isn't expiring for at least five years. Do I need to request Extended Registration through the Grad Office?

A: You don't *NEED* to. You can, if you want. An academic and SEVIS extension now will not impact your AUD (because your Program End Date is already beyond the 4-year maximum), but having a longer SEVIS Program End Date could potentially make a future Extension of Stay (EOS) smoother.

EOS application & Form I-539

Justification for EOS:

- Current SEVIS Document shows more time is left to complete the program of study
- Documentation showing compelling academic reason
- Documented illness or medical reason
- Circumstances beyond the student's control

Two-Step Process:

- 1) ISP Advisor enters new Program End Date in SEVIS and issues updated I-20/DS-2019
- 2) Student (+dependents) timely file Form I-539 with Filing Fee, SEVIS Document, Proof of Funding

EOS Considerations

- Biometrics
- USCIS discretionary decision
- Late EOS requests can result in Denial or need to file Reinstatement
- Can generally continue study while EOS pending (be careful about work)
- I-539 Fee: \$420 online filing fee
- Premium Processing currently not available
- File up to 180 days before expiration of current stay (maybe longer?)

Q: My SEVIS Program End Date is August 2029. I will not travel internationally. Do I need to apply for EOS if I will graduate in June 2029?

A: No need to apply for EOS if completing academic program before the AUD minus the grace period.

However, if you intend to stay to work in the United States, yes EOS is needed.

Caltech PHD G4 (as of Fall 2026)

- Program Start Date = 09/18/2023
- Original Program End Date = 08/31/2029
- **Updated Program End Date = 06/12/2029**
- AUD = 09/30/2029 (Program End Date + 30-day grace period, if travel)
- OPT Start Date = 07/01/2029
- **OPT End Date = 06/30/2030 (Beyond current AUD)**

Q: Instead of applying for EOS, can I just leave the country and reenter?

A: Yes, it seems possible to extend the period of stay by reentering the United States. The steps would include:

- Obtain an updated SEVIS Document (I-20 or DS-2019)
- Present the updated SEVIS Document to CBP upon reentry
- CBP processes the U.S. entry and assigns a new AUD

Retrieve, Review, Print I-94 after EACH U.S. entry

<https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/search/recent-search>

Option to Travel and Reenter Instead of EOS

- DHS clarifies in the preamble to the final rule that it has "opted to provide flexibility by allowing F and J nonimmigrants to either file for an EOS or depart and reenter the United States to extend their stay. Each option has advantages and disadvantages, and the decision is up to the individual."
- Unclear if need to file EOS before travel.
- Unclear if USCIS will consider an EOS application "abandoned" if subsequently travel prior to EOS adjudication.
- Unclear if would be admitted to the not-yet-expired AUD or based on the new SEVIS Program End Date.

Q: As a rising junior, what exactly do I have to keep in mind or do?

A: Know Your Documents:

- SEVIS Document (I-20 or DS-2019 issued by the school)
- Visa (issued by the U.S. Consulate)
- Passport expiration date
- I-94 (retrieve, review, print EVERY time you enter the U.S.)



Thanks and Stay Engaged

Continue sending ISP your questions

- isp@caltech.edu

Other Resources:

- [International Student Resource Center \(ISRC\)](#)
- [StudyintheStates](#)
- [NAFSA: Association of International Educators](#)
- International Students Association at Caltech (ISAC) [Slack](#) for community!

ISP guidance does not constitute and should not be construed as legal advice. Individuals with questions about how laws, regulations, and policies apply to specific situations should contact an experienced immigration lawyer.