

THE END OF DURATION OF STATUS: HOW WILL IT IMPACT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & SCHOLARS AT JPL

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AGENDA

- Overview of the final rule
- Documents and dates
- Extensions via USCIS application or international travel
- Program duration for JVS RP & postdocs
- Examples
- Deadlines
- How you can help

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

- Fixed-date admissions to the United States.
- Extensions by filing Form I-539 extension of stay application with USCIS or accomplished by travel and reentry.
- F-1 grace period reduced from 60 to 30 days.
- Transition provisions for Fs and Js in the United States on September 15, 2026.

Changes not relevant to this presentation:

- J-1s must report name and/or address changes within 10 calendar days.
- Restrictions on transfers and changes of educational objectives for F-1s.

DATES AND DOCUMENTS YOU WILL NEED TO UNDERSTAND & MONITOR



- Passport expiration date
 - *Must be valid while in the United States; Must be valid for 6 months into the future upon entry into the United States*
- Visa expiration date
 - *Must be valid upon entry into the United States; May be expired while inside the United States*
- I-94 Arrival/Issued Date
 - *Entry or reentry date into the United States*
- **I-94 Admit Until Date (AUD)**
 - *The shorter of program end date or up to 4 years from Arrival/Issued Date, + 30 day grace period*
 - *Check after every entry into the United States*
- **J-1 DS-2019 program dates**
- **F-1 I-20 program dates**
 - *For STEM Engagement Office students (JVSOP, etc.)*
- **F-1 EAD expiration date**
 - *End of OPT/STEM OPT employment authorization document*
- JPL appointment date

I-539 EXTENSION OF STAY APPLICATION (EOS)

- Three-Step Process
 - *Host extends program*
 - *International Office Advisor enters new Program End Date in SEVIS and issues updated I-20/DS-2019*
 - *Student/Scholar (+dependents) timely file Form I-539 with filing fee, extended I-20/DS-2019, F-1 proof of funding, and other supporting documents*
- F-1 Justification for EOS
 - *Documentation showing compelling academic reason*
 - *Documented illness or medical reason*
 - *Circumstances beyond the student's control*
- J-1 Justification for EOS
 - *To be determined*

I-539 EXTENSION OF STAY APPLICATION (EOS)

- USCIS filing fee:
 - \$420 *online filing fee*
 - \$470 *paper filing fee (includes dependents)*
- Premium Processing currently not available
 - +/- \$2,000 *filing fee possible*
- Biometrics
- Discretionary decision
- Timely filing
 - *F-1 - prior to program end date*
 - *J-1 – prior to AUD*
- File up to 180 days early

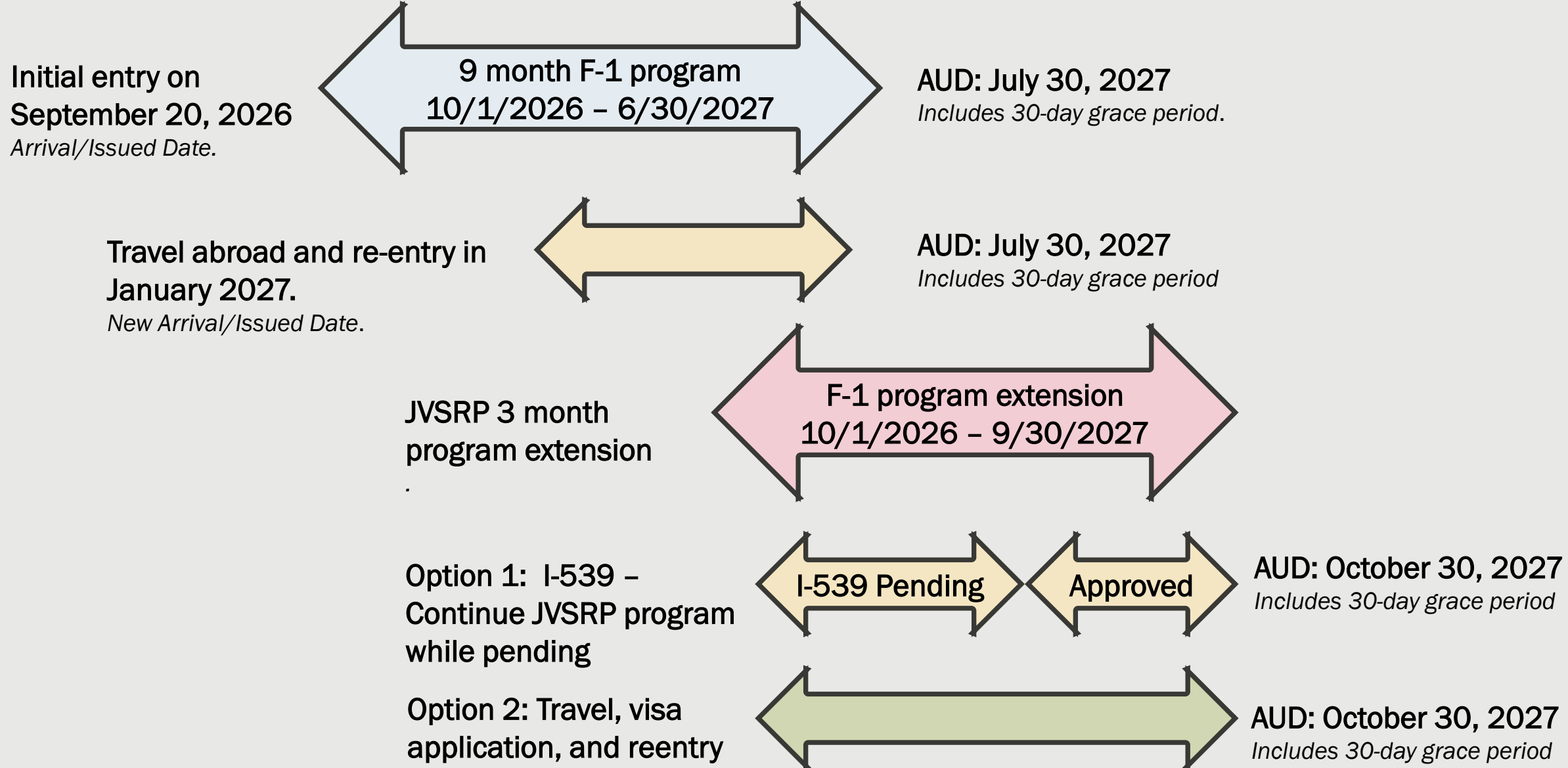
EXTENSION VIA INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND REENTRY

- Three-Step Process
 - *Host extends program*
 - *International Office Advisor enters new Program End Date in SEVIS and issues updated I-20/DS-2019*
 - *Student/Scholar (+dependents) travel abroad, apply for new visas, and reenter the United States*
- No I-539 filing fee
- Visa fees and travel costs
- No biometrics
- Discretionary decision
 - *New for CBP*
 - *Fewer legal protections “outside” the United States*
- Travel possible even if an I-539 is pending

PROGRAM DURATION

- Minimize the need for an I-539 EOS or international travel and reentry
- JVS RP program dates
 - *Use a full, realistic period for the visit that incorporates any possible extension*
 - A JVS RP extension = F-1 extension
 - *Use dates that are feasible for the student, that reflect the realities of visa acquisition and international travel plans.*
 - A late arrival that changes the program dates = F-1 extension
- Postdoc appointment dates
 - *Renewable Term Appointments for up to 4 years*
 - J-1 DS-2019

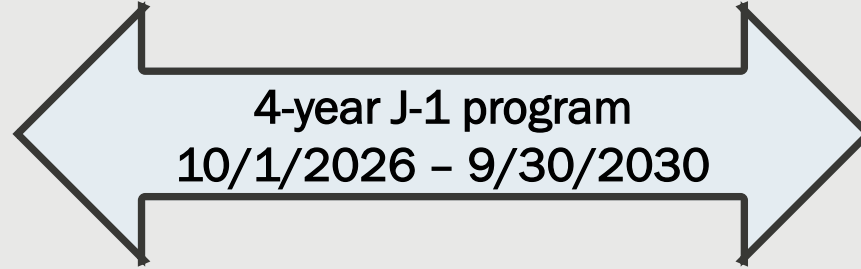
F-1 JVS RP EXAMPLE



J-1 POSTDOC EXAMPLE

Initial entry on
September 20, 2026

Arrival/Issued Date.



AUD: October 30, 2030

Includes 30-day grace period.

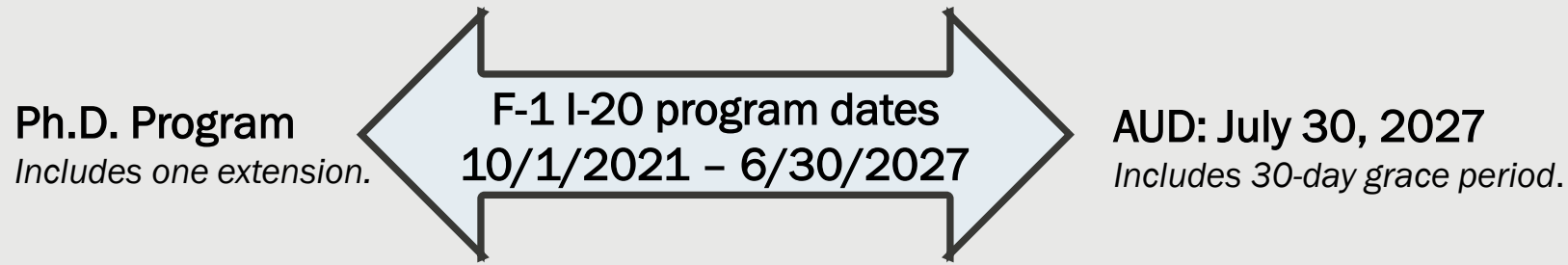
Travel abroad and re-entry in
July 2027. *New Arrival/Issued Date.*



AUD: October 30, 2030

Includes 30-day grace period

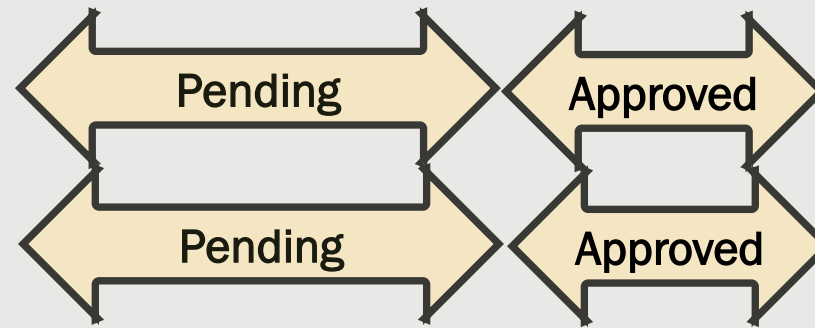
F-1 OPT/STEM OPT POSTDOC OR REG HIRE EXAMPLE



Graduating student receives an offer from JPL

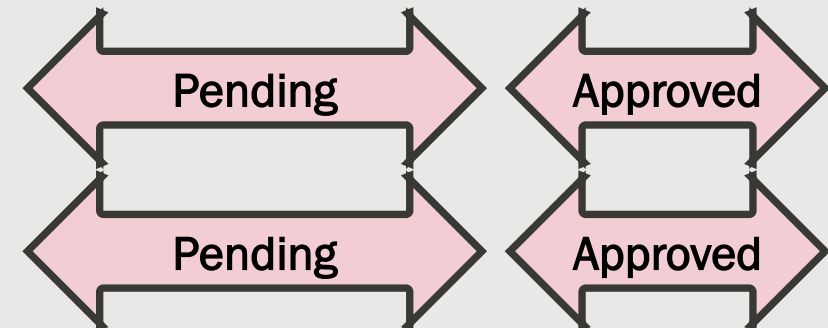
Two Steps:

- F-1 OPT EAD application
- Option 1: I-539
Option 2: travel, visa, & reentry



Two Steps:

- F-1 STEM OPT EAD application
180 day work authorization while pending
- Option 1: I-539
Option 2: Travel, visa, & reentry



DEADLINES TO REMEMBER – WHAT IS “TIMELY FILED”?

- J-1
 - *Prior to your Admit Until Date (AUD)*
 - *240 day work authorization while I-539 is pending*
- F-1 and F-1 OPT
 - *Prior to your I-20 program end date*
 - Student 240 day work authorization while I-539 is pending
 - OPT EAD is required for work authorization after graduation
- F-1 STEM OPT
 - *Prior to the end of your OPT EAD*
 - *180 day work authorization while I-765 pending*
- Check your I-94 after each entry and reentry into the United States
 - *Your status is your responsibility*



IMPACT OF MISSED AUD DEADLINE

- Late filed I-539
 - *If F-1 files in 30 day grace period – only student status extended; no 240 work authorization while I-539 is pending*
 - *Reinstatement application required if filed after grace period*
- Unlawful presence accrues from first day after AUD.
- Impact of departing the United States
 - *1 - 179 days:*
 - visa is invalidated and all future visa applications in home country
 - *180 days - less than 1 year:*
 - 3-year bar to U.S. reentry
 - *1 year or more:*
 - 10-year bar to U.S. reentry

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP YOURSELF?

- Monitor your passport expiration date
 - *Your AUD may be shortened to match your passport expiration date*
- Each time you reenter the United States
 - *Retrieve your I-94 from: <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/home>*
 - *Compare the Admit Until Date (AUD) to your Program End Date on your I-20 or DS-2019*
 - *Your AUD should be for the shorter of 4 years from date of reentry or your program end date, plus 30 days for a grace period.*
 - *If your I-94 AUD does not reflect this date, email visa@jpl.nasa.gov.*
 - ***Your status is your responsibility***
- Family and friends
 - *Remind your family members to review their I-94 AUDs*
 - *Ask your colleagues if they have reviewed their I-94 AUDs when they return from international travel*



QUESTIONS

We can't provide individual advising in this session.