Program Extension: Frequently Asked Questions
Students in J-1 Status

When do I need a program extension?
- Current academic program cannot be completed by end date on DS-2019
  - Refer to section 3 on page 1 of your DS-2019

What are acceptable reasons for a program extension?
- Compelling, valid academic reason (see examples below)
  - Change of major
  - Change of research topic
  - Unexpected research problem(s)
  - Original length of time given to complete studies is not sufficient for the average student in this academic program
  - Compelling medical reason (student’s illness or medical condition)

What reasons are not acceptable for a program extension?
- Allow additional time for Curricular Practical Training
- Poor job market/failure to find employment
- Delay in completing degree requirements caused after being placed on academic probation or having been suspended from Iowa State University

How long an extension can I request?
- Any length of time it would reasonably take to complete degree requirements.

Can I request additional extensions, if needed?
- Yes, as long as there continues to be a compelling academic or medical reason.

When do I submit my request for a program extension?
- As early as four months prior to the end date on current DS-2019.
- At least ten calendar days prior to the end date on current DS-2019.

What must I submit to request a program extension?
- Program Extension: J-1 Student Request form
- Program Extension: Academic/Faculty and DOGE Recommendations form
- Financial documentation
- Letter from a licensed medical doctor or licensed clinical psychologist which documents your illness or condition, if applicable.

What do I need to know about the financial documentation?
- Please refer to the Estimated Expenses information found on the ISSO web site (www.isso.iastate.edu):
  - Enrolled Students » Immigration Info & Forms » J-1/J-2 Status » Estimated Expenses
Do I need to meet an ISSO advisor?
- No.

Where do I submit my request for a program extension?
- Drop off the completed form at the front desk, ISSO, 3248 Memorial Union
- If you are away from campus, you may fax the completed form to 515-294-8263 or scan and e-mail it to intlserv@iastate.edu

What is the timeline for processing a program extension request?
- 10 calendar days

How will I know if my request for a program extension has been approved?
- ISSO will send an e-mail to your ISU e-mail address when processing is complete.
  - If you do not receive this e-mail within 10 calendar days after submitting your request, please send an e-mail to intlserv@iastate.edu to check on your request.

What are the immediate consequences if I fail to request a program extension before my current DS-2019 expires?
- You will be considered in violation of your J-1 nonimmigrant status
- You will not be allowed to continue working on campus
- If you have authorization to work off campus, it will be automatically terminated
- You lose your eligibility for all other benefits of your J-1 nonimmigrant status