



Office of International Students and Scholars Services (OISS)

Dependents

A dependent is a spouse or children (unmarried under the age of 21). Dependents of international students may enter the U.S. as F-2 visa holders. Their stay in the U.S. is completely dependent on that of the F-1 visa holder. If the F-1 visa holder leaves the country for an extended vacation term, the F-2 must leave as well.

Financial Requirements

In order to bring dependents to the U.S., an international student must show evidence of financial resources sufficient to support his/her spouse and/or children.

- HIU requires additional financial documentation that covers the cost of bringing a dependent(s) to the U.S. For a spouse, add \$8,000 to your cost of attendance, and for each child, add \$4,000 to your cost of attendance. Please note that dependents can join you in the U.S. at a later date.
- The State Department Officer at the U.S. consulate/embassy where your family will apply for their visas will also require evidence of financial support. They may have different standards you will have to meet.

Adding a Dependent

You will add the dependent(s) when completing the I-20 Request Form. Please note that in addition to the financial documentation, you are required to upload a copy of their passport biographic page. Note: not all programs allow for students to travel to the U.S. with their dependents. Please check with your Program Director or Admissions before adding dependents.

Dependents Studying in the U.S.

Spouses. F-2 dependent spouses are allowed to participate in part-time study in courses offered by an SEVP-certified school. F-2 dependent spouses may also engage in recreational or avocational study. If a dependent is accepted into a full-time program of study, OISS strongly recommends applying for a change of status to an appropriate student visa (such as the F-1).

Children. F-2 children may attend elementary and secondary school. Please reach out to the Office of Student Services for schools in the Hartford area.

Employment

Dependents in F-2 status may not accept employment in the United States. An F-2 dependent may only work in a paid position if they apply for, and receive, a change of status to an appropriate visa that allows for employment. If an F-2 dependent would like to volunteer, please contact OISS for more information.

Travel

If traveling outside and re-entering the U.S., F-2 dependents need valid passports, valid F-2 visas, and a valid Form I-20s. The dependent's Form I-20 must have a travel signature on page two of the form no older than 12 months.