F-1 and J-1 Students: Extension Policy

F-1 Students: 8 CFR 214.2(f)(7)(iii)-(iv)

1) **Eligibility** – A student is eligible for extension if:
   a. The student submits a complete application for extension (including supporting financial documents) before the program end date;
   b. The student has continually maintained status;
   c. The student’s delay in completion is caused by “compelling medical or academic reasons, such as changes of major or research topics, unexpected research problems, or documented illnesses.”
      i. “Delays caused by academic probation or suspension are not acceptable reasons for program extensions.”
      ii. Where a student has already had one extension for the same academic program, the academic advisor must provide a written, detailed explanation of: (a) the unforeseen academic issues that have caused the student’s delay in completion; and (b) a timeline of the student’s expected progress to completion.

2) **Proof of Finances** – The student must provide proof of funding for the period of the extension. However, if the extension is longer than one year, the student only needs to provide proof of funding for the first year.
   a. If the department intends to support the student through an assistantship but the GA contract for the extension period is not yet approved by the Graduate School, the student may submit the department chair’s letter of intent to continue the funding.

J-1 Students

In general, J-1 students will be handled the same as above, with these important differences:

1) **Eligibility** – the extension must also be consistent with the original program objective.

2) **Proof of Finances** -- The student must provide sufficient funding for the entire duration of the extension, even if longer than one year.

3) **Exchange/Guest Students** -- If the student is a J-1 Non-degree student:
   a. The mobility coordinator from the student’s home institution must provide written confirmation that the institution supports the extension;
   b. The student must also secure approval from UA’s Executive Director of Global Engagement; and
   c. Under no circumstances will study in Guest status be permitted beyond two semesters.