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Comment On: USCIS-2007-0038-0034

Agency Information Collection Activities: Application To Extend/ Change Nonimmigrant Status. Form I-539; Revision of a Currently Approved Collection

Document: USCIS-2007-0038-0043

Comment Submitted by Lynne Vanahill, University of Kansas

Submitter Information

Name: Lynne Vanahill

Address:

1450 Jayhawk Blvd Room 2
Lawrence, KS, 66045

Email: Lynne@ku.edu

Phone: (785) 864-3617

Organization: University of Kansas

General Comment

Thank you very much for providing us with the option to make comments on the new paper I-539. I work in an international student office and serve as PDSO at a large research institution. We have over 2100 international students and are quite familiar with this form. Our F-1 students often use the I-539 for Reinstatement and for Change of Status applications. Please find my suggestions below.

Part 1 Item #11

Please add a check box for D/S. Most of our F-1 students have I-94s for Duration of Status and do NOT have a specific departure date to provide for a date field.

Part 3 Item #1

Again, if the student is applying for F-1 (or J-1) status, he or she will be requesting their status be extended for "D/S" (Duration of Status) You could provide a checkbox for D/S and you could mention it is only an option for people in eligible statuses (i.e. F-1 or J-1) The applicant should have an option to put in a date OR check D/S.

Part 4 Items 1.a. and 1.b.

I really don't know what you are asking for here. When you say "For Principal Applicant", won't that ALWAYS be the person listed in Part 1 on the I-539????) This info was already requested under Part 1 Items 9.d. and 9.e. so I don't think you want the same info again.

What are you really wanting to gather here? Are you wanting info on a primary if a dependent is applying for a benefit? If an H-4 is applying for a COS are you wanting the H-1Bs passport info? Is there a better way to clarify what you are asking and in what circumstances? Maybe clarify, if you have a dependent status (e.g. H-4 or F-2), please provide the Principal's passport info...

Part 4 Item #18

I fear people may overlook the info below #19 which starts "If you answered "Yes" to number 18...." I recommend putting this paragraph immediately below #18. In other words, move up the paragraph that starts "If you answered "Yes" to number 18" to be part of 18. You could just say, "If you answered yes....." (like you have done with question 20)

Part 4 I

Attachments

Comment Submitted by Lynne Vanahill, University of Kansas (Attachment)

I-539 Comments

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Part 4 Item #19

With this question, you want additional info if the person marks yes or no. Students OFTEN overlook this so I recommend mentioning additional info is required. *For example:*

19. Have you, or any other person included in this application, been employed in the United States since last admitted or granted an extension or change of status? *(Note additional info is required. See below)*

Also, it gets really wordy referring to "Part 4 (continued) Additional Information for Answers to Numbers 18 and 19". Two suggestions: Either 1) Add this section to Part 4 and place it immediately below question 19 OR 2) leave it near the end of the form and rename it Part 9 or Supplement 1 to direct people to the end of the document.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide Comments!