

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Docket: USCIS-2007-0038

Agency Information Collection Activities: Form I-539, Revision of an Existing Information Collection; Comment Request

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-2007-0038-0044

Comment Submitted by Lynne Vanahill, University of Kansas (2nd Comment)

Submitter Information

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General Comment

I previously submitted comments, but they were all about the paper I-539. These comments are based on the ELIS screenshots.

I summary, I am a PDSO at a large research institution that has over 2100 international students. Our F-1 students often use the I-539 for reinstatement and change of status applications. We are quite familiar with the I-539.

I apologize – I'm not sure the best way to let you know which screen shot I am referring to. If this is too confusing, please don't hesitate to contact me. I have found a 45 page PDF of the proposed screen shots so I will reference them by page.

Page 1

First asterisk* states “*Individuals in the F-1 classification who receive a date-specific visa that requires....”

This is total misuse of the word “visa”. ALL nonimmigrants who have a visa have a date-specific visa and a visa has nothing to do with how long an individual can stay in the U.S. Please refer to 22 CFR 411.112(a) which says “the period of visa validity has no relation to the period of time the immigration authorities may authorize the alien to stay in the United States.”

I think correct terminology, especially on a Federal government website should be used. I think you are actually referring to the alien’s “I-94” or “entry stamp” in their passport.

A possible suggestion may read “*Individuals in the F-1 classification who received a specific departure date on their I-94 or entry stamp can extend status in USCIS ELIS.”

Page 4 – About You > Name(s)

I LOVE that you have check boxes if there is no first name or middle name ☐

Page 8 – About You > Immigration

The top question is about “immigration status at time of most recent arrival”. Then the second question is asking if the person entered under the Visa Waiver Program. Is it not possible to add a layer of logic here and only ask for the additional VWP info if the person selects they entered under VWP from the drop down above? In my mind, if I just said I entered as F-1, I don’t understand why you

Attachments

Comment Submitted by Lynne Vanahill, University of Kansas (2nd Comment)- Attachment

I-539 ELIS Comments

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Page 16 - Eligibility Information > Education Information.

The question is "Are you a B-2 visitor applying to extend your stay, or are you applying to change your status to that of an F-1 or M-1" If yes, the person is asked to provide who will provide financial support.

It seems there is only place to list one individual plus a scholarship. It is possible the student may have more than one source. Please consider adding an option for additional sources of funding.

Page 17 – Eligibility Information > J1/J2 Visa

It asks if the person is currently in J-1 or J-2 status. (apparently after the person has already been asked about current immigration status). Any way to use behind the scenes logic to know this without asking again? The system should know if the person already indicated their status.

Page 21 – Supplemental Biographic Information > Employment History

Is this only for past employment? IF the person is currently employed, do you want a "Date Employment Ended" Is there a way to add a checkbox for "Still currently employed at time of application"

Page 22 – Supplemental Biographic Information > Education History

Again – how is one supposed to record current educational institution? Is there an option to add a box for "currently attending" next to the Date of Attendance To that wants a specific end date?

Page 23 – Supplemental Biographic Information > Residence History

Again, how can one indicate where currently residing?

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.