Change of Status from B-2 to J-1 Student

This procedure takes approximately 3-4 months. The process cannot be expedited; however, you may stay in the U.S. to await the results. In a few weeks after you mail your application for change of status, you can expect to receive a “Notice of Action” document (acknowledgment of receipt). With the receipt number, you can track your “case status” at: www.uscis.gov.

The status change to J-1 must be approved prior to enrolling in classes. If your change of status has not been received in time to begin school on the date indicated on the DS-2019, contact your admissions officer and have it deferred until the next semester.

The following documentation is needed:

1. SEVIS DS-2019 from the Admissions Office
2. Documentary evidence of support:
   - **If U.S. Sponsor:**
     Please submit a form I-134 Affidavit of Support verifying he/she is willing to support you and a copy of his/her last bank account statement on bank letterhead, or a letter from the sponsor verifying employment and salary.
   - **If Personal Funds:**
     Submit evidence that shows you have access to funds in U.S. dollars. Submit copies of your last three bank account statements showing all deposits and withdrawals from your savings and checking accounts. Foreign amounts must be calculated by current exchange rates into U.S. dollars. **It must be demonstrated that you have access to the entire amount of funds to cover the estimated cost for the academic year.**
   - **If Assistantship:**
     Submit a copy of the “award” letter.
   - **Other:**
     For government scholarships, etc. submit a copy of award letter.
3. Copy current I-94 card (front and back)
4. Copy of passport page showing passport information and expiration date
5. Copy of visa page
6. I-539 form found under “Immigration Forms” at www.uscis.gov
7. Filing fee as indicated on the I-539 instructions.
8. Copy of I-901 SEVIS fee receipt (Instructions for online payment at http://www.fmjfee.com)

It would be advisable to make copies of all papers submitted prior to mailing by certified mail (keep receipt).