

Residency Reclassification for Tuition Purposes

Out-of-state graduate students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents **MAY** apply for Florida residency for tuition purposes after 12 months of continuous residence in Florida, if they did not move to Florida just to attend an institution of higher learning. International students studying on F or J visas **CANNOT** apply for Florida residency for tuition purposes (exceptions apply to international students granted asylum, students receiving a Latin American Caribbean scholarship, and those enrolled in the Florida-Brazil Linkage Institute or similar linkage institute). Several other exemptions exist (<https://admissions.ufl.edu/afford/resexceptions>).

Read the statutes carefully to see if you meet the requirements for residency reclassification.

- [State Statute 1009.21](#)
- [Florida Board of Governors Rule 7.005](#) (section 3)
- [Guidelines on Florida Residency for Tuition Purposes](#) (section 5)

In order to be reclassified as a Florida resident to qualify for in-state tuition, you must “convincingly demonstrate the establishment of permanent legal residence in Florida other than for the sole purpose of pursuing a postsecondary education”. This is most easily shown if you are an independent student who moved to Florida, secured a full-time job, maintained residence in Florida and worked continuously for at least 12 months, and then got accepted to the University of Florida. If the only reason you are in the state is to attend the University of Florida, then you cannot apply for residency to qualify for in-state tuition.

The process

If you think you qualify for reclassification to Florida residency, you should consult the Office of the Registrar Residency for Tuition Purposes webpage <https://registrar.ufl.edu/services/residencychange> and follow the instructions on the Residency Reclassification form linked on that page.

Read this section, bolded on the first page of the form:

In addition to the Florida legal documents listed on page 2, independent students must prove their presence in the state was for the purpose of maintaining a bona fide domicile, rather than for the purpose of maintaining a mere temporary residence or abode incident to enrollment in an institution of higher education pursuant to 1009.21(2)(a)(2) and 1009.21(6)(a). Examples of documentation that could be used in combination with the Florida legal documents, which may help prove intent to be a permanent resident are, but may not be limited to, the following:

Documentation of full-time permanent employment for the prior 12 months or the purchase of a home in this state and residence therein for the prior 12 months while not enrolled in an institution of higher education.

The more documentation you provide, the greater your chances of being successfully reclassified, assuming you meet the legislative requirements. Marriage to a Florida resident can justify residency reclassification.