



IMMIGRATION INFORMATION FOR J-1 VISA HOLDERS

J-1 Scholars, Students, and Local States

A J-1 scholar is admitted to the United States for the duration of the program indicated on Form DS-2019 as follows:

1. Follows all visa restrictions imposed on the individual as described on the DS-2019.
2. Fulfills all visa requirements, transfer and extension requests.
3. Does not accept employment without authorization.
4. Maintains health insurance coverage throughout the entire period of stay as required by the Department of State.
5. Reports any change of address to the ISSO within ten days of the move.

Travel to and from the United States must be scheduled no later than 30 days before the scheduled start date of the program. However, if the scholar finishes the program on the last day of the program, then the departure date must be within 30 days of the scheduled start date.

J-2 Visa Holders: A Spouse of a J-1 Visa Holder

Maintaining status

A J-2 visa holder in the United States is the dependent of a J-1 visa holder. The J-2 dependent may remain in the U.S. while the J-1 visa holder is in the U.S. The J-2 dependent must also maintain health insurance coverage which meets the Department of State requirements. Further, the J-2 visa holder may not engage in any employment before obtaining authorization.

J-2 Travel

He/she may leave and enter the United States by leaving Form DS-2019 endorsed by the International Student and Scholar Office. See "Travel Abroad and Re-entry into the United States" section for complete information. The J-2 visa holder must also be in the U.S. at the time of the J-1 visa holder's departure.

J-2 Employment

A J-2 visa holder may apply for this benefit the J-2 visa holder must submit the following documents to the Immigration Service regional office in Vermont.

1. A letter from the employer stating that the J-2 visa holder's employment will not be used to support the J-1 visa holder, but will be used to help fund the cultural exchange of the J-2 visa holder(s) while in the U.S. The letter should include a list of the family (not including the J-1 visa holder) and their current status in the U.S.
2. A copy of I-94.
3. A copy of the passport information page
4. A copy of the J-2 visa
5. Form I-94
6. A copy of all DS-2019s.
7. Copies of documents which show the financial information required in letter (4) above.
8. Two passport-size photographs (2x2 inches) of the J-2 visa holder.

Note: The International Student and Scholar Office staff members are available to assist the J-2 visa holder in assembling the required materials for an employment authorization application.