

International Student and Scholar Office  
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## **IMMIGRATION INFORMATION FOR J-1 VISA HOLDERS J-1 Scholar: Staying in Legal Status**

A J-1 scholar is admitted to the United States for the duration of the program indicated on Form DS-2019 provided he/she:

1. Engages only in activities permitted under the individual's program category, as described on the DS-2019.
2. Files timely and appropriate transfer and extension requests
3. Does not accept employment without authorization.
4. Has valid health insurance coverage meeting at least the minimum standards required by the Department of State.
5. Reports any change of address to the ISSO within ten days of the move.

Upon completion of the scholar's program, he/she has 30 days to depart the U.S. This is normally 30 days after the ending date in box #3 of Form DS-2019. However, if the scholar finishes the program earlier than that date, then the departure date must be within 30 days after scholarly activities end.

**J-2: Spouses and Children of Exchange Visitors**

**See other side** ⇨

## J-2: Spouses and Children of Exchange Visitors

### Maintaining status

A J-2 visa holder is in the United States as the dependent of a J-1 visa holder. The J-2 dependent may remain in the U.S. while the J-1 Visitor is maintaining legal status (see reverse side). The J-2 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 having 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 has the same requirements as the J-1.

### J-2 Employment

A J-2 visa holder may apply to the Immigration Service for permission to accept employment. To 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 requesting permission to accept employment. The letter should verify that the money earned from the employment will not be used to support the J-1 visa holder, but will be used solely to augment the cultural exchange of the J-2 visa holder(s) while in the U.S. The letter should include a list of the family's monthly income and expense items.
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-765 with a check for \$380 payable to "USCIS"
6. A copy of all DS-2019s.
7. Copies of documents which support the financial information described in letter (#1, above)
8. Two passport-style photographs, as described in Form I-765.

USCIS will authorize employment by issuing an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) to 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.