

International Student and Scholar Office
Psychology Building, 4th Floor
8000 York Road
Towson, MD 21252-0001
tel: 410 704-2421 fax: 410 704-6040
www.towson.edu/isso



IMMIGRATION INFORMATION FOR J-1 VISA HOLDERS

J-1 Students: Staying in Legal Status

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

1. **Attends the school which issued his/her current Form DS-2019**
2. **Report any change of address** to the ISSO within ten days of the move. In order to report your address to the ISSO make changes to the University's online system as described in the ISSO handout. "Using Online Services to Fulfill Your SEVIS Immigration Reporting Requirements"
3. **Maintains a full-time course load** during regular semesters (at least 12 credits for undergraduates, 9 credits for master's-level students, and 6 credits for doctoral students)
4. **Follows immigration transfer procedures** when changing schools or academic programs
5. **Receives employment authorization** for all employment
6. Has a **valid passport** at all times
7. Has **valid health insurance coverage** meeting at least the minimum standards prescribed by the U.S. Department of State

Permission to stay in the US expires 30 days after the ending date typed in item #3 of Form DS-2019. However, if the exchange student does not complete the entire planned program, then permission to stay expires 30 days after student's program terminates.

For 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 an USCIS permit.

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.