

## J-1 and J-2 Information

### Description

A J-1 visa is issued to individuals who have been accepted to participate in exchange visitor programs, designated by the United States Information Agency (USIA). This may include students, scholars, trainees, teachers, professors, specialists, foreign medical graduates, international visitors, government visitors, camp counselors, au pairs, and participants in summer travel/work programs.

### Basic Requirements Summary

The applicant needs to have been accepted into a designated exchange program evidenced by Form DS2019 issued by the program sponsor.

### Validity Term

The validity of the J-1 visa depends on the exchange program in which the applicant participates. Generally the J-1 visa is issued for the duration of the exchange program. The maximum allowable periods of stay for each category are:

- College and University Students: Duration of course of study for those in a degree program; limit of 24 months for those in a non-degree program. 18 months of academic training are also allowed - 36 months for post-doctoral programs.
- Professors and Research Scholars: 60 months.
- Trainees: 18 months, 24 months for those coming for flight training.
- Short-term scholars: 4 months.
- Specialists: 12 months.
- Foreign medical graduates: length of program, up to a maximum of 7 years.
- International visitors: 12 months.
- Government visitors: 18 months.
- Teachers: 36 months.
- Secondary school students: 12 months.
- Camp counselor: 4 months.
- Au pairs: 24 months.

Extensions of stay are allowable only up to the maximum allowable period of stay for each category.

## **J-2 Visa**

### **Description**

A J-2 visa is issued to spouses and minor children of a J-1 visa holder.

### **Basic Requirements Summary**

A J-2 applicant must show that there is financial support for his/her stay in the U.S. before the visa is issued. J-2 visa holders are authorized to work in the United States. Employment may be authorized for up to the duration of the J-1 visa holder's stay or 4 years, whichever is shorter.

### **Validity Term**

A J-2 visa holder is admitted for the duration of the J-1 visa holder's stay.