

Illinois Institute of Technology

International Center

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J-1 Scholar Maintaining Status

01/08

Now that you are in the US as a J-1 exchange visitor you must meet certain obligations in order to maintain your lawful status. You MUST:

- Engage only in the activities permitted by the program and category listed on your DS-2019 form
- Maintain a valid passport at all times as well as your DS-2019 form
- Refrain from unauthorized employment. You must receive a written permission from the International Center for incidental employment at another institution. Such employment must be related to program activities listed on your DS-2019 form.
- Obtain and maintain health insurance that meets the minimum requirements as defined by the U.S. State Department. "At a minimum, insurance shall cover: (1) medical benefits of at least \$50,000 per person per accident or illness, (2) repatriation of remains in the amount of \$7,500; and (3) expenses associated with medical evacuation in the amount of \$10,000. A policy secured to fulfill the insurance requirements shall not have a deductible that exceeds \$500 per accident or illness..." Willful failure to comply can result in your termination from the J program. This insurance requirement also applies to J-2 dependents.
- Report a change of address in the U.S. within 10 days of your move to the International Center through their website under J-1 scholars.
- As long as J-1 status is maintained, exchange visitors may remain in the US until the ending date on the DS-2019 plus 30 days (i.e. your grace period)

PROGRAM EXTENSION/COMPLETION

- Apply for extension of your J-1 status, if you are eligible and if the department is interested in continuing your association with IIT, two months prior to the expiration of your current DS-2019. Keep in mind that the maximum allowable time in J status is dependent on your category: 5 years for research scholars and professors or 6 months for short-term scholars.
- Current appointment letter, proof of sufficient funding and health insurance for the duration of your stay will be necessary to extend your stay
- Notify the International Center if you have completed your program or are withdrawing from your program early so that the International Center can comply with notification and reporting requirements
- 24 month bar: Research Scholars and Professors are prohibited from returning to the US for 24 months in either of these categories once they have completed their

program as listed on the DS-2019 or sooner. Prior to departure, please meet with the International Center to discuss your plans and how this may impact you.

CHANGE OF PROGRAM/OR STATUS

- Notify the International Center if you are anticipating changes in your program
- Notify the International Center if you adjust your status to permanent resident
- Transfer to another program sponsor is possible only if you are released first by IIT and will continue to work toward your program objectives in the same category at the new institution. You are required to have the Transfer out for J scholars form completed prior to the date of transfer.
- Change of Status from J-1 or J-2 is possible only if the exchange visitor is not subject to 212(e), the two-year home country physical presence requirement. Individuals subject to 212 (e) can make an appointment with the International Center to discuss waiver possibilities. Once a waiver of the two year rule is granted, extensions of program are not possible

DEPENDENTS

- J-2 dependents must meet the DOS requirements for health insurance
- J-2 dependents may be eligible to work in the United States. Authorization in the form of an EAD card is issued by US CIS for a given period. Please see the J-2 work authorization handout on the Int'l Center's website.
- J-2 dependents have similar travel requirements to J-1 Exchange Visitors
- J-2 dependents can study full-time or part-time without changing status to J-1/F-1

OTHER

- **UNLAWFUL PRESENCE** occurs when you stay beyond the ending date of your I-94 (Exchange Visitors typically do not have a specific end-date on the I-94) or upon determination by the US Immigration Service. There are serious consequences to staying unlawfully in the US. The consequences include 3-year bar from reentering the US if you have stayed unlawfully in the US for 180 days or more, and a 10-year bar if you remain unlawfully in the US for 360 days or more. Violation of your J-1 status does not necessarily make you unlawfully present, although it does make you ineligible for any immigration benefits. Before this occurs, please consult the International Center if you have any questions about maintaining your status.
- **DEPARTMENT OF STATE** (oversees J1 visa program): You can write to SA-44 Rm 734, 301 4th Street, S.W, Washington D.C. 20547 or email jvisas@state.gov
- **U.S. TAXES** : J-1 professors and research scholars are exempt from paying social security and medicare taxes, but are required to pay state and federal taxes. However, residents of certain countries may also be exempt from paying state and federal income tax for the first 2 or 3 years of their stay in the U.S. in J-1 status. For additional information please consult IRS Publication 901 "U.S. Tax Treaties" available at www.irs.gov. J-2 dependents are required to pay all taxes. All exchange visitors in J-1 and J-2 status should file federal and state income tax returns by mid April of every year. Information about filing tax returns is available at www.irs.gov.