

J-1 Immigration 101

by Joseph Macade

VEF Program Officer



CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR EXCHANGE VISITOR(J-1) STATUS

OMB APPROVAL NO.0405-0119
EXPIRES: 02-28-2005
ESTIMATED BURDEN TIME: 45 min
*See Page 2

Form DS-2019 with fields for personal information, program details, financial support, and signatures. Includes a SEVIS ID J-1 barcode on the right side.

Your DS-2019

Your I-94 Arrival/Departure Card

Report Number
742831632 01

U.S. IMMIGRATION
230 WAS 177

Immigration and
Naturalization Service

I-94
Departure Record

SEP 13 1991

ADMITTED B-2

ISSUED
MARCH 12, 1992

1. Family Name
DOE

2. Given (First) Name
JOHN

3. Country of Citizenship
ENGLAND

4. Birth Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
01/01/91

See Other Side STAPLE HERE

Warning - A nonimmigrant who accepts unauthorized employment is subject to deportation.
Important - Retain this permit in your possession; you must surrender it when you leave the U.S. Failure to do so may delay your entry into the U.S. in the future. You are authorized to stay in the U.S. only until the date written on this form. To remain past this date, without permission from immigration authorities, is a violation of the law.

Surrender this permit when you leave the U.S.:

- By sea or air, to the transportation line;
- Across the Canadian border, to a Canadian Official;
- Across the Mexican border, to a U.S. Official.

Students planning to reenter the U.S. within 30 days to return to the same school, see "Arrival-Departure" on page 2 of Form I-20 prior to surrendering this permit.

Record of Changes

Departure Record

Port: _____

Date: _____

Carrier: _____

Flight #/Ship Name: _____

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, D.C. 20482

Form I-94

The Form I-94 Arrival/Departure Card serves as documentation of legal entry in the U.S. in a specific status for a specific period of time.

After Arrival in the USA

1. Check-in with your International Students' & Scholars' Office (ISO) at your university & attend their orientation.
2. Upload in the OMS:
 - A copy of your stamped DS-2019
 - A copy of your passport ID page
 - A copy of your I-94 card
 - A copy of your J-1 visa
3. Enter your address in the OMS within 10 days
4. Enter your department contact info, academic/host advisor's info and your ISO contact info in the OMS

After Arrival in the USA (cont'd.)

5. Apply for a Social Security Number

- letter from VEF
- I-94 Card
- Passport
- DS-2019
- Application

(<http://www.ssa.gov/online/ss-5.pdf>)

Maintaining J-1 Student Status

1. Maintain full-time enrollment during the Fall & Spring terms.
(typically 9 credits)
 - You must receive approval, *in advance*, from VEF to be enrolled less than full-time.
 - You are not required to enroll during the summer term unless it is your last term.

Legal Reasons for enrolling less than full-time (with approval from VEF)

- During your first term you are having difficulty with the English language and/or American teaching methods
(requires a letter from academic advisor)
- Documented medical condition (requires letter from your doctor)
- It is your last term and you only need a few credits to complete your program
(requires letter from your advisor)

Maintaining J-1 Student Status (cont'd.)

2. You must receive approval from VEF, *in advance*, if you want to change your field of study or degree level.

- In most cases a change in the field of study is not permitted under J-1 immigration laws.

Maintaining J-1 Student Status (cont'd.)

3. Do not work without approval, *in advance*, from VEF.

-Types of Employment:

On-campus Employment

Academic Training

On-campus Employment

- Takes place on your school's campus
- Related to your field of study
- Limited to 20 hours per week during the academic year but can be full-time (over 20 hours) during school breaks (summer, winter break, etc).
- Authorization can only be granted one year at a time
- Complete the application in the OMS, *before beginning your job*, and VEF will provide you with the required authorization letter.

Academic Training

- Work, training, or experience, on a part-time (20 hours per week) or full-time basis (over 20 hours per week), directly related to a J-1 student's field of study.
- Usually is off-campus
- May be taken before or after completion of your degree.
- PhD students are given a total of 36 months of AT time. 18 of these months must be taken after completion of your PhD for post-doctoral training.
- AT is granted for a specific position, at a specific location for a specific period of time.
- Complete the application in the OMS and VEF will issue the required letter and an updated DS-2019 which shows your AT authorization

Maintaining J-1 Scholar Status

1. You must work/perform research at the university and department listed on your DS-2019. Working or performing research anywhere else is a violation of your J-1 status.
2. You are not permitted to be employed outside of your stated training program.

Exception

- J-1 Research Scholars and J-1 Short-term Scholars may receive permission from VEF, *in advance*, to perform a one-time or occasional lecture or consultation and receive payment for their services.

International Travel

- Before traveling please complete the application for international travel in the OMS.
- To re-enter the US you are required to have a signature by VEF on the bottom right corner of your DS-2019. This signature is valid for 12 months from the date of signing for J-1 Students and J-1 Research Scholars whose program is at least 12 months, and 6 months for J-1 Short-term Scholars. You do not need a new signature every time you travel.
- You also must have a valid J-1 visa and valid passport to re-enter the US.

Exception

Automatic Revalidation

You may travel to Canada, Mexico or any of the Caribbean Islands except Cuba for a period of less than 30 days and re-enter the US on an expired J visa.

Exchange Visitor Program Info

Academic and Government Programs Division
U.S. Department of State
Office of Exchange Coordination & Designation
ECA/EC/AG - SA-44, Room 820
301 4th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20547
Telephone: 202/203-5029
Fax: (202) 453-8640
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