Welcome to the University of Minnesota!
J-1: Exchange Visitor Visa

- objective is "to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchanges."

- J-1 scholar categories:
  - Research Scholar
  - Professor
  - Short-Term Scholar
## J-1 Categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Scholar</th>
<th>Professor</th>
<th>Short-Term Scholar</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Primarily conducting research, observing and may also teach or lecture.</td>
<td>• Primarily teaching, lecturing, observing and may conduct research.</td>
<td>• Person with similar education to professor/research scholar coming for short-term visit primarily for lecturing, observing, training, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Minimum stay in U.S. is 3 weeks, maximum is 5 years.</td>
<td>• Minimum stay in U.S. is 3 weeks, maximum is 5 years.</td>
<td>• No minimum stay required. Maximum stay in U.S. is 6 months.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Minimum degree: Bachelor’s or int’l equivalent</td>
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What is SEVIS?

- **Student & Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)** is an electronic reporting system that provides the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with information on international students and scholars in the United States who hold F, J, and M visas.

- Every school, college and university that admits students or scholars on F, J or M visas is mandated to use SEVIS.
Main players at the UMN

Department

ISSS

HR/ OSHB

Payroll?

China Center?

Medical School?
External Players

Scholar

Dept. of State

J Exchange Visitor Program

U.S. Embassy/Consulate

Dept. of Homeland Security

USICE

CBP

USCIS
Immigration Documents
The DS-2019

Certificate of Eligibility

- Every DS-2019 contains a SEVIS ID in the upper right-hand corner unique to each J program. This ID is needed when paying the SEVIS fee.

- Dependents of J-1 Scholars (J-2s) must possess their own DS-2019.
Importance of an accurate DS-2019

- Apply for the J-1 visa at U.S. consulate abroad
- Successfully enter (or re-enter) the U.S. in J-1 status
- Scholar needs it to...
  - Provide evidence of past J programs for future U.S. opportunities
  - Legally remain in the U.S. for department collaboration
This is where you find the program dates. Scholars are allowed and expected to participate in the program activities within these dates. Not before and not after.

This section is for travel/reentry signatures. Scholars and their dependents must have a valid re-entry signature from ISSS if traveling outside the U.S. within the DS-2019 program dates.
Visa Stamp

- Can expire while in the U.S. without affecting legal status
- Must be valid when entering the U.S. from overseas
- “Entries: M” = multiple entries allowed with this visa
I-94 Number (Arrival and Departure Record)

- Proof of lawful admission into U.S.
- D/S = Duration of Status, no specific end date
- Grace period after program completion (30 days)

https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home#section
J-1 Regulations/Policies
Engage in Defined Activities

- Scholars, professors, and short-term scholars are here to teach, perform research, consult, or observe and can not enroll in courses unless they are incidental.

- A change of category from scholar to student or vice versa requires the individual to leave the U.S. and re-enter on a new DS-2019 that reflects the correct category.
Be Employed only with Authorization

- J-1 Scholars can be paid for occasional lectures or consultations off-campus. Written authorization must be obtained in advance from an ISSS J adviser.

- [http://isss.umn.edu/jscholar/JSCEmployment.html](http://isss.umn.edu/jscholar/JSCEmployment.html)
Health Insurance

- J-1 visitors and their dependents are required by law to carry health insurance that meet specific U.S. Federal regulations.

- The University of Minnesota requires all J-1 scholars and their dependents to purchase the University’s insurance.

- This is stated on the Statement of Responsibilities, which is part of the ISSS application and signed by the scholar prior to ISSS issuing a DS-2019. The information also accompanies the DS-2019 issued by ISSS.
If the J-1 Scholar does not purchase the UMN’s insurance for themselves and their dependent(s), the scholar will not be eligible for ISSS benefits. Including:

- Travel/Reentry Signature
- DS-2019 Extension
- Dependent DS-2019 Request
- Financial Update
- Occasional Lecture and Short-Term Consultation Authorization

http://isss.umn.edu/J/insurance.html
UMN Health Ins. Requirements

Information about the J federal insurance requirements or ISSS benefits, contact:

- ISSS

Information regarding the UMN insurance, exceptions/waivers, contact:

- Office of Student Health Benefits (for non-employed scholars) [http://www.shb.umn.edu](http://www.shb.umn.edu) and/or
- Human Resources (for scholars eligible for employee benefits)
Two Year Home Residency Requirement
(a.k.a: “2 year rule” “212e”)

- If subject: Exchange Visitors (and dependents) are expected to return to their "home" countries and be physically present there for a total of two years before being eligible to return to the United States in immigrant (permanent residence/green card) status, H status (temporary workers and dependents), or L status (intra-company transferees and dependents).

- The exchange visitor who currently holds J–1 or J-2 Status and is subject to the 2–year rule is also not eligible for change of status to another visa status without leaving the United States.

http://www.isss.umn.edu/Departments/JReg.html
24 Month Bar

- Any exchange visitor who comes to the U.S. for any length of time in the Professor or Research Scholar categories will not be able to come back to the U.S. in the Professor or Research Scholar categories for a period of 24 months, once his/her J-1 program has ended. J-2 dependents are subject as well.

  - [http://www.isss.umn.edu/Departments/JReg.html](http://www.isss.umn.edu/Departments/JReg.html)
2 Year Rule

Could apply to any J visa holder, regardless of category

Prohibits immigrant or employment-based visa status until 2 years have been fulfilled in home country

In other words: Individual could still return to the U.S. as tourist, J-1, F-1...but not in H-1B status.

A waiver process with the DoS exists

24 Month Bar

Applies only to participants and dependents in J Research Scholar or Professor programs

Prohibits a new J-1 Research Scholar or Professor program until 24 months have passed

In other words: Individual could still return as tourist, F-1, H-1B, J-1 Short Term Scholar (or any other J category that isn’t RS or Prof)

No waiver exists.
### No patient contact

- The physician or veterinarian will at most attend or give lectures, go into patient areas as an observer or consultant, or work on research tissue and specimens that have no direct bearing on patient care.

- ISSS will provide a letter in support of this attached to initial DS-2019 given to hosting department.

### Incidental patient contact

- The physician or veterinarian in a program of observation, consultation, teaching or research may need to have limited patient contact in order to carry out their program objectives. The limited patient contact must be “incidental” to the programs objectives. NO element of patient care is involved in the program and/or NO hands-on assistance during any clinical procedure.

- Letter from UMN Medical School is required with initial ISSS application.
Transfers of J Scholars

Eligibility:

- The scholar must be in the U.S. as a J-1 scholar.
- Their category must remain the same (i.e. Research Scholar, Professor, or Short-term Scholar).
- Their J-1 activities have to be a continuation of the original purpose (they must continue the work/research that they were doing at the previous institution).
Departure

- A scholar must notify ISSS by submitting a Departure Form if their program is completed 15 days or more before the program end date on their DS-2019.

- Scholars who have completed their program activity have a 30-day grace period beyond the end date on their DS-2019 in which to depart or to travel within the U.S. They are not allowed to be involved in any J-1 activities during the grace period even without pay.

- If the scholar will not be able to complete their J-1 program before the DS-2019 end date, they need to request a DS-2019 extension before the current DS-2019 expires.
Report Address Changes

- J-1 Scholars are required to report address changes within 10 days of moving.
- Scholars will notify SEVIS by going into OneStop/HR and updating their personal information. ISSS will receive an electronic notification when this has been done and will send it to SEVIS on behalf of the scholar.
- If the scholar does not have an X.500 ID, he/she will need to request the hosting department to update the information on their behalf.
J-2 Dependents

- May apply for work authorization from USCIS
- Are subject to the Two Year Rule if the J-1 is subject.
- Are subject to the 24 month bar if the J-1 is subject.
- Cannot remain in the U.S. after the J-1 completes their program or for long periods of time without the J-1 being present.
- May study full- or part-time.
- Must carry health insurance.
Additional Issues

Questions related to:
- % of Appointment
- Title/Position (for immigration purposes, any position is fine EXCEPT Student or tenure-track classifications) contact your HR Administrator

Questions related to:
- Tax Treaties
- Tax Deductions
- Tax issues related to payment of Honoraria vs. Reimbursements contact the Payroll Office
Helpful Links

- **For J Scholars:** [http://isss.umn.edu/jscholar/](http://isss.umn.edu/jscholar/)

- **Resources:** [http://www.isss.umn.edu/resources/](http://www.isss.umn.edu/resources/)

- **Applying for SSN:**
  - [http://www.isss.umn.edu/INSGen/ssn.html](http://www.isss.umn.edu/INSGen/ssn.html)

- **Employee Relocation Assistance Program (RAP)**
  - [https://www1.umn.edu/ohr/rap/](https://www1.umn.edu/ohr/rap/)
ISSS Contacts

Julie Halfen
J Visa Coordinator
Alternate Responsible Officer
612-626-7452
half0040@umn.edu

Stacey Buachart
J Program Director
Responsible Officer
612-626-7363
buach001@umn.edu

To review walk-in hours or schedule an appointment, call:
612-626-7100
http://isss.umn.edu/office/hours.html
http://isss.umn.edu/office/staff.html