

## **J-1 Exchange Student Application Packet**

### **OVERVIEW OF J-1 VISA**

The J Exchange Visitor program is a temporary program and J-Visa holders should have no immigrant intent. This visa category should not be used for permanent employment positions or to seek Permanent Residency in the United States.

The J Exchange Visitor classification authorized by I.N.A. § 101(a)(15)(J) was developed to implement the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act (Fulbright-Hayes Act) of 1961 [Public Law 87-256, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 2451, et seq.]. The overall purpose of that Act and the objective of the Exchange Visitor classification 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.” The Department of State issues J-Visas and establishes and administers the federal regulations and policies governing the J Exchange Visitor Program.

### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL J-1 EXCHANGE VISITORS**

There are a few basic requirements for all J-1 Exchange Visitors:

- 1) Intent to pursue appropriate activity
- 2) Intent to return to home country (as determined by Consular Officer)
- 3) Appropriate background for program activity (i.e. the J-1 Exchange Visitor meets appropriate application requirements)
- 4) Adequate English proficiency (a letter from your university stating proficiency will be adequate).

### **LIMITATIONS – DURATION OF STAY AND EMPLOYMENT**

- Limited to a minimum stay of 3 weeks and a maximum stay of 24 months for non-degree students
- Must be enrolled for full-time study for duration of program
- May work up to 20 hours on campus during regular university semesters. May work up to 40 hours per week on campus during holidays (i.e. Spring Break, Christmas vacation)
- May qualify for Academic Training work authorization for off-campus employment

### **SEVIS FEE & VISA FEES**

Prospective J-1 Exchange Visitors are required to pay certain fees, described below, in order to obtain their J-1 visas\* and enter the United States.

**SEVIS Fee:** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security charges all new J-1 s a \$200 fee to cover the costs of the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), a central database that manages information related to visitors’ immigration status while in the United States. The Office of Immigration and International Admissions will provide prospective J-1 exchange visitors with instructions on how to pay the SEVIS fee when sending the DS-2019 form.

**Visa Fees:** In addition to the SEVIS fee, the prospective J-1 exchange student must pay certain visa fees. Please see the Department of State web site for more information on fee amounts: <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/study-exchange/student.html>. J-1 Exchange Visitors should consult the web site of the particular embassy or consulate where they plan to apply for their J-1 visa for information on how to pay their visa fees: <http://www.usembassy.gov/>.

\* Please note: Canadian citizens must pay the SEVIS fee, but are not required to obtain a J-1 entry visa.

## REQUIRED FINANCIAL SUPPORT

All students must show proof of financial support prior to completion of immigration documents. Please see the chart below for fees necessary for study at USA. Please provide a bank statement, bank letter, and/or governmental financial guarantee for amount per semester you will attend. If sponsored by a family member or friend, please have the sponsor complete the J-1 Affidavit of Support at <https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/eforms/international/j1exchangestudentaffidavit.pdf> and submit with their financial document(s).

Fees	Fall	Spring	Summer
Living Expenses (housing/meals)	\$3,000	\$3,750	\$2,250
Books and Supplies	\$300	\$300	\$300
Miscellaneous fees*	\$425	\$425	\$425
Insurance	\$1,405	\$1,956 (includes summer)	\$560
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,130</b>	<b>\$6,431</b>	<b>\$3,535</b>

\*Graduate students may incur additional fees for graduate, departmental courses. Please visit <http://www.southalabama.edu/bulletin/current/> for more information. All fees are subject to change without notice.

## HEALTH/MEDICAL INSURANCE REQUIREMENT

Based on new federal regulations that go into effect in May 2015, J-1 s must maintain the following minimum level of health insurance for themselves and any J-2 dependents for the duration of their stay in the United States:

1. Medical benefits of at least \$100,000 per accident or illness
2. Repatriation of remains in the amount of \$25,000
3. Coverage for medical evacuation of the exchange visitor to his/her home country in the amount of \$50,000
4. A deductible which does not exceed \$500 per accident or illness.

J-1 students must provide proof of health insurance for themselves and any family members when they first arrive and report to the Office of Immigration and International Admissions (OIIA), and again if they apply for an extension of their J-1 status. J-1 s may purchase any plan that provides the minimum level of coverage listed above or purchase the university health policy upon arrival.

**Immunizations** - All students who come to the US and specifically to university settings should make sure that they are aware of the immunization requirements for their specific functions. All students attending USA must have two doses of the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella vaccination, as well as a Tuberculosis skin test no older than 6 months. If the student will reside in the University of South Alabama residence halls, then they must have the meningitis vaccination. Please complete the Immunization and Tuberculosis Screen Test form at <http://www.southalabama.edu/departments/studenthealth/immunization.html>. It is recommended that you have this form completed **before** you leave your home country. These immunizations can be very costly in the U.S. and if you've had the vaccinations, there should be no need to have them again.

## **APPLICATION STEPS FOR J-1**

**Step 1:** The J-1 applicant should complete Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the Application for J-1 and sign the statement at the end of Section 3.

In addition, the J-1 applicant should submit the following materials:

- A copy/scan of the J-1 applicant's main passport information page (and the main passport page for each J-2 dependent spouse and/or child(ren) who will accompany the J-1 to the U.S.).
- If the exchange student will be supported by personal funding or by funding from a sponsor, the student must include any necessary financial documentation (award letter, bank statement, etc.) and indicate the sources of funding in Section 2. Please see chart above for required expenses.
- Non-native English speakers and those who are not residents/citizens of countries where English is an official language must provide proof of English Language Proficiency. Proof of proficiency is a requirement of the US Department of State, and can be shown by any of the following means:
  - ❖ Evidence of a recognized English language test results, such as the TOEFL, IELTS, Pearson PTE, Cambridge English Test, TOEIC or CEF.
  - ❖ Signed documentation from an academic institution or English language school, verifying that the student has sufficient language skills to function on a day-to-day basis in the U.S. academic work environment.

### **Step 2: Office of Immigration**

After receiving all documents from the J-1 applicant, as well as the proof of finances, the Office of Immigration will process the DS-2019 Form(s) for the J-1 exchange visitor and for any J-2 dependent(s) in the US Citizenship and Immigration Services SEVIS Database (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System).

Along with the DS-2019(s), the Office of Immigration will prepare a packet for the J-1 which will include an invitation letter and information about the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program, paying the SEVIS fee, obtaining the J-1 Visa, travel to the United States, and general information.

**\*Please allow at least 5 business days for the Office of Immigration to process and prepare all supporting documents. Overall processing time for the student to obtain the DS-2019, a J-1 visa, and arrive in the U.S. could potentially take a minimum of 8 weeks.**

**SECTION 1: J-1 DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY)**

**NAME AND RESIDENCE INFORMATION:**

Full Name (as listed in passport): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Family/ Last Name (Surname)                      Given Name (First)                      Middle Name (if any)

Date of Birth (month/ day/ year): \_\_\_\_\_ Gender :  Male     Female  
 (month/day/year - i.e. March 27, 1975)

Place of Birth (required): \_\_\_\_\_  
 City    Country

Citizenship & Residence (required): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Country of Citizenship                      Country of Legal Permanent Residence

Permanent Address in Home Country (**not** school address):  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**CURRENT OR LAST JOB POSITION/ EMPLOYMENT IN HOME COUNTRY (NOT IN THE U.S.):**

Student ► If student:  Graduate student (doctoral or master's) **or**  Undergraduate student (bachelor's)

Professor

Government Employee ► If government:  Central  State  Regional  Provincial  City  Town/Village  
 ► Position as government employee: \_\_\_\_\_

Private Sector/Other (please describe): \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Employment/Study in Home Country (Company or Institution): \_\_\_\_\_

**VISA HISTORY:**

If currently in the U.S., what is your immigration status? \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year): \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: If currently in J-1 Status and transferring to the University of South Alabama, please also complete J-1 Transfer-In Form.

If on a J-1 VISA now or in the last 36 months, please indicate your category (Please Include Copies of Previous DS-2019s):  
 ►  Professor  Research Scholar  Short-term Scholar  Student/Intern  Specialist  Other

Start date of J-1 Status (Month/ Day/ Year): \_\_\_\_\_ through (Month/ Day/ Year): \_\_\_\_\_

Program Sponsor (name/program number found on line 2 of DS-2019): \_\_\_\_\_

If in J visa status, have you applied for a waiver of 212(e), the Two-Year Home Residency Requirement?  YES or  NO

If you have applied for waiver of the 212(e), has it been approved?  YES or  NO (If yes, please include copy of waiver approval)

## SECTION 2: FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Funding must be arranged prior to issuance of a DS-2019 form. Please see the expenses chart on page 2 of this packet for appropriate fees.

If funds are from an organization, grant, or government support, please attach a signed copy of any letters of award or sponsorship. If submitting personal funds, please attach a bank statement. If sponsored by a family member or friend, please have the sponsor complete the J-1 Affidavit of Support at <https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/eforms/international/j1exchangestudentaffidavit.pdf> and submit with their financial document(s). All forms of financial documentation should be not more than 6 months old. **Proof of funding must accompany this form.**

SOURCES OF FUNDS	NAME OF SOURCE OF FUNDING	ASSURED SUPPORT (IN \$USD)
1. University of South Alabama		\$
2. International Organization		\$
3. Home Government		\$
4. Personal Funds		\$
5. Other Source		\$

## SECTION 3: DEPENDENT FAMILY INFORMATION (FOR SPOUSE AND/OR CHILD'S J-2 DS-2019)

**FAMILY FINANCIAL SUPPORT:** A J-1 exchange student must show financial support of \$750 per month for spouse and \$650 per month per child(ren) above the minimum of \$2000 per month for each J-2 dependent he/she wishes to bring to the U.S. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** DS-2019 documents can be issued only to dependent spouses and to unmarried, dependent children under 21 years of age. Married children and children over 21 years old cannot be issued a DS-2019 and cannot hold J-2 status.

<b>Spouse's Info</b>	Full Name (required): _____ <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small;"> <span>Family/Last Name (Surname)</span> <span>Given Name (First)</span> <span>Middle Name (if any)</span> </div> Place of Birth (required): _____ <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small;"> <span>City</span> <span>Province/ Territory</span> <span>Country</span> </div> Citizenship & Residence (required): _____ <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small;"> <span>Country of Citizenship</span> <span>Country of Legal Residence</span> </div> Date of Birth: (month/day/year): _____ Spouse's Gender : <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female Spouse's E-Mail Address (required): _____
<b>Child's Info</b>	Full Name (required): _____ <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small;"> <span>Family/Last Name (Surname)</span> <span>Given Name (First)</span> <span>Middle Name (if any)</span> </div> Place of Birth (required): _____ <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small;"> <span>City</span> <span>Province/ Territory</span> <span>Country</span> </div> Citizenship & Residence (required): _____ <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small;"> <span>Country of Citizenship</span> <span>Country of Legal Residence</span> </div> Date of Birth: (month/day/year): _____ Child's Gender : <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female Child's E-Mail Address (required): _____

**NOTE:** For additional children, please copy this section and submit as a separate page with the above requested information.

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION TO BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS FORM

- Copy/Scan of Passport Identification Pages (For yourself and any accompanying dependents)
- Copy/Scan of Proof of Financial Support, Bank Statement, and/or Affidavit of Support
- Copy/Scan of Proof of English Proficiency for non-native English speakers

**IF CURRENTLY IN THE UNITED STATES, ALSO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:**

- Copy/Scan of current/ most recent visa stamp, I-94 Arrival Page, and any current/previous DS-2019s, I-20s, I-797 Approval Notices (For yourself and any accompanying dependents)

**I certify that the above information is correct and complete, and that I shall notify the University of any changes in my personal information and/or exchange plans.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_