

J Visa Exchange Visitor Welcome and Pre-Arrival Information (Research Scholar, Professor, Specialist, Short-Term Scholar & Student Intern)

On behalf of the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) staff, we are glad you chose Florida Atlantic University as your research, teaching, or internship site. All approved scholars and student interns will receive the following documents from ISSS:

- Form DS-2019 – Certificate of eligibility for J-1 Exchange Visitor Program
 - *Note: If you are bringing dependents (spouse or children), there will be a separate DS-2019 form for each dependent. They will be eligible to apply for the J-2 visa.*
- Form DS-7002 (J-1 student interns only)
- The official Exchange Visitor Program brochure (published by the U.S. Department of State)
- The FAU insurance enrollment form for international scholars

You should also have an original letter of invitation/appointment from the host department (sent either with these documents or separately). **Please review all document(s) for accuracy.** Contact ISSS or the host department immediately if you notice any errors or discrepancies in the forms prepared by FAU.

As you prepare for your arrival and stay in the U.S., please review the information below and visit the cited website links for further details. If you do not have Internet access or cannot connect to the appropriate websites, contact ISSS to request the information via email or regular mail.

Note: If you are currently in the U.S. holding a J-1 visa and transferring from another program or holding another non-immigrant visa and seeking change of status to J-1, please contact ISSS for further information about processing your transfer/change of status.

General Information about the J Exchange Visitor Program

http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1267.html

The Exchange Visitor (J) non-immigrant visa category enables foreign nationals to come to the U.S. for a variety of activities intended to increase mutual understanding between the United States and other countries. Established through the Mutual Education and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (also known as the Fulbright-Hayes Act), this program is administered primarily through the U.S. Department of State along with the Department of Homeland Security (unlike other visa categories which are administered primarily through the Department of Homeland Security). Therefore, the J Exchange Visitor Program has some unique requirements that distinguish it from other visa categories used for study, work, or travel. Your exchange visitor category is listed on the DS-2019. The Exchange Visitor Program has many categories besides the one assigned to you. While participating in this FAU-sponsored program you are expected to engage in the activities which are in line with the program objectives listed on the DS-2019. Changes of category are generally not permitted under the J Exchange Visitor Program and will not be supported by FAU.

Note: A two-year bar on repeat participation applies J Exchange Visitors in the Research Scholar or Professor category. This is not to be confused with the home residency requirement (explained below).

The 212(e) Two-year Home Country Residency Requirement

http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1267.html#15

Your DS-2019 and the J visa will indicate whether or not you are subject to 212(e). If you are subject to this requirement you must return to your home country for at least two years before you become eligible for the H visa, L visa, or permanent residence. You are also ineligible to seek a change of status to from J to any other status (except for A status or G status) while remaining in the U.S. As your program sponsor, FAU cannot apply for a waiver of 212(e) on your behalf.

Insurance Requirement

<http://exchanges.state.gov/jexchanges/sponsors/how-to-administer-a-program.html#insurance>

J-1 exchange visitors and their J-2 dependents are required by Federal Law and FAU policy to have adequate medical insurance coverage. Willful failure to maintain required insurance coverage may lead to termination of the Exchange Visitor Program. FAU international scholars (short-term/research scholars, professors, specialists) and international student Interns can comply with the requirement by purchasing one of the following:

- The FAU-approved student/scholar plan: <http://www.insuranceforstudents.com/plan.php?s=9&l=76>. A copy of the enrollment form is enclosed for your convenience.
- The Scholar ICS discount plan:
http://www.insuranceforstudents.com/exchange-visitor/int/ev-ics_2009_discount.html

- The Scholar Care plan:
http://www.insuranceforstudents.com/exchange-visitor/int/ev-ci_2009.html

To obtain current enrollment rates and application forms and to inquire further about benefits under each insurance option, contact Insurance for Students at ifs@insuranceforstudents.com or at 800/556-1235.

You are encouraged to purchase your insurance prior to travelling to the U.S. so that your coverage can begin on date of arrival.

Responsible Officer (RO) and Alternate Responsible Officer (ARO)

The RO/ARO is an individual designated by FAU and approved by the U.S. Department of State to access SEVIS and to perform administrative and advising functions pertaining to the university's J Exchange Visitor Program. The RO or ARO are the only school officials who can issue, sign, extend, or otherwise modify your DS-2019 and the associated SEVIS record. Several ISSS staff members are assigned to these roles and can assist you with matters regarding your J visa status.

Pre-arrival Information

- Contact the U.S. Embassy or Consulate where you plan to apply for your J-1 visa to set up your visa appointment and learn about the required visa forms and fees. http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1267.html#7
- Note: Citizens of Canada do not need to apply for a visa. They enter the U.S. using only a valid passport and the DS-2019.*
- Pay the SEVIS fee. SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) collects and maintains data on international students and scholars seeking entry (or already in) the United States. Information about the SEVIS fee (purpose, amount, payment procedures, etc) is available at <http://www.fmiffee.com>.
 - Make travel arrangements and do some preliminary research about housing and living arrangements in the Boca Raton area (or near the FAU site where you will conduct your activity). For help you can review the ISSS housing handout for international students and scholars. http://wise.fau.edu/iss/prospective/Pre_Arrival_Info.php
 - Prepare for entry to the U.S. At the port of entry (the airport where you first land in the U.S you will need to present your passport with the valid J-1 visa stamp (J-2 visa stamp for dependents), your DS-2019, and Form I-94 (which you will receive on the plane prior to landing).

Note: If you enter the U.S. by car (from Mexico or Canada) you will receive your I-94 during the border crossing process.

Arrival at Florida Atlantic University

Important: *If you experience unexpected delays and cannot arrive within this 30 day window, please contact your host department and ask them to notify ISSS and request that your program start date be deferred. Failure to do so may result in automatic cancelation of your DS-2019 and SEVIS (electronic) immigration record.*

You must check in with ISSS within 10 days of entry to the U.S. and no later than 30 days of the original program start date of the DS-2019. Preferably, the J scholar/intern or the host department will contact ISSS in advance to schedule a check-in appointment with a scholar advisor.

- Bring your passport, DS-2019, and I-94 for yourself and your accompanying J-2 dependents. J-2 dependents are not required to join you for check-in but may join you if they wish do so.
- Provide a local address; if you do not have a local address at the time of the appointment, you may use your departmental address, but you will still need to provide ISSS with a physical local address.*
- Bring proof of adequate medical insurance for you and accompanying J-2 dependents or be prepared to purchase the university insurance for J scholars.*

**If you are unable to provide the address and insurance information during the check-in appointment, you must provide this information to ISSS no later than 30 days from the Exchange Visitor Program start date.*

During the check-in appointment, the advisor will provide you with a brief overview of the visa regulations and responsibilities under the J visa program and will answer other questions pertaining to your stay at FAU. Do not hesitate to contact our office if you have any questions regarding the enclosed materials and information.

Sincerely,
ISSS Exchange Visitor Advising Team:

Mihaela Metianu, Director & Responsible Officer (mmetianu@fau.edu)
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