

**International Services ~ Center for Global Engagement**

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## **J VISA EXCHANGE VISITORS WELCOME & PRE-ARRIVAL ORIENTATION (Research Scholar, Professor, Specialist, Short-Term Scholar & Student Intern)**

On behalf of the International Services (IS) 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 International Services:

- Invitation/appointment letter from the host department
- 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 FAU insurance enrollment form for international scholars

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. *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 International Services for further information about processing your transfer/change of status.*

### **General Information about the J Exchange Visitor Program**

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**

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

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 group plan:  
<http://www.insuranceforstudents.com/insurance-plans/year/schools/details?s=9&l=242>  
A copy of the enrollment form is enclosed for your convenience.
- The FAU-approved individual scholar plan  
<http://www.insuranceforstudents.com/insurance-plans/year/schools/details?s=77&l=264>

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](mailto: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.

If you wish to use a non-FAU plan to show proof of coverage, you must complete the Insurance Compliance Form – to be signed by the insurance provider. If you have a paid position with health benefits, you only need to purchase the additional medical *evacuation and repatriation* coverage from [Insurance for Students](#) (to find out more, please contact Customer service e-mail: [ifs@insuranceforstudents.com](mailto:ifs@insuranceforstudents.com) or call 954-771-5883 or 800-356-1235). However, we recommend that you buy some insurance to provide coverage from the day of arrival until your FAU health benefits begin (usually a month after the first day of employment).

## 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. Some of our International Services staff members are assigned to these roles and can assist you with matters regarding your J visa status.

### BEFORE YOU ENTER THE UNITED STATES

- 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. Remember, you can only set up the appointment after your DS-2019 has been issued by International Services as you will need to provide the SEVIS ID (created on your DS-2019). This U.S. Embassy website can help to locate the Embassy where you will obtain your visa: <https://www.usembassy.gov/>
- Pay the SEVIS fee. SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) collects and maintains data on international students and scholars seeking entry to (or already in) the United States. Information about the SEVIS fee (purpose, amount, payment procedures, etc.) is available at <http://www.fmifee.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 International Services Resources page with the on and off campus housing information: [http://www.fau.edu/international/prospective/Housing\\_Info.php](http://www.fau.edu/international/prospective/Housing_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) and your

DS-2019. Your entry to the U.S. will be recorded electronically; a stamp with the J-1 D/S (J-2 D/S for dependents) will be placed in your passport. To learn more about your transportation from the local airports, please visit: <http://www.fau.edu/international/pdf/Route%20Information.pdf>

### AFTER YOU ENTER THE UNITED STATES

#### 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 IS to 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 International Services 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 International Services in advance to schedule a check-in appointment with a scholar advisor.

- Print your entry record (I-94) at [www.cbp.gov/I-94](http://www.cbp.gov/I-94) (you can print this form in advance, or you can print it at IS when you check in).
- Bring your passport, DS-2019, and I-94 record (your dependents are not required to join you for check-in, but they are always welcome)
- 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 IS 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 International Services 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.

For more information about J-1 Exchange Visitor Program please visit Department of State web site:

<http://j1visa.state.gov/sponsors/how-to-administer-a-program> .

The International Services Team is here to help you navigate the complexities of your immigration status and to assist you in making a smooth transition to living in the U.S. For detailed information, visit our website at

<https://fau.edu/international>.

### STAY CONNECTED...



New Students can connect to ISSS by joining our Facebook community to receive announcements about FAU social activities, campus events and local community events. Log on to [Facebook www.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) to create an account and become a “fan” of: [International Students @ FAU](https://www.facebook.com/InternationalStudents@FAU). Please check our web site at <http://fau.edu/iss> on a regular basis.