

J-1 Visas - Exchange Visitors

- Available to trainees, professors or research scholars, short term scholars, foreign doctors, camp counselors, au pairs and students in work/travel programs in the US
- Applicant must be coming to the US to participate in an exchange program designed by the US State Department
- Applicant should have fluency in English and sufficient funds to live here if the program does not pay J-1 visa holders
- If an au pair applicant, must register with 1 of the 8 designated au pair programs in the US
- If a doctor seeking to train in the US, should be admitted into a medical residency or fellowship program and obtain sponsorship from the Educational Commission on Foreign Medical Graduates
- If a business trainee visa, must show an employer to provide training opportunity
- If a training opportunity, must be a program sponsor
- May have 2 year requirement to return home for 2 years before switching to another visa
- Time allowed for training - 18 months
- Time allowed for scholars and professors up to 3 years
- Time allowed for au pairs - 1 year
- Time allowed for medical residents - up to 7 years
- Time allowed for students - not limited
- Students eligible for up to 18 months of post-graduate work authorization
- Students eligible for up to 36 months of post-doctoral work authorization
- Students must be enrolled full-time
- Spouses and children entitled to work authorization
- USCIS approval not required before consulate can issue visa.