

J-1 PARTICIPANT PROGRAM INFORMATION



Do you want a summer break filled with travel, work and adventure? The Summer Work Travel program may be for you.

The Exchange Visitor Program, also referred to as BridgeUSA, is designed to promote cultural exchange and understanding between countries by allowing foreign nationals to live and work in the United States (US). The US Government allows certain organizations, such as A Cultural Exchange Service (ACES), to sponsor eligible participants in exchange programs to live and work in the United States.

The Summer Work Travel program enables international college students to accept vetted and approved, seasonal employment in the United States during their summer break.

This booklet contains information about the program:

- **About Us**
- **Visa Sponsorship**
- **Eligibility**
- **Program Duration**
- **Job Placements**
- **Medical Insurance**
- **Accessible Funds**
- **Travel**
- **2-Year Foreign Residency Requirement**
- **Getting Started**



Connecting global leaders,
creating lasting impact.

ABOUT US

ACES has been a US Department of State designated J1 sponsor since 2008 and has sponsored thousands of participants in that time. We match eligible applicants with eligible and approved employment opportunities in the United States. The program promotes cultural exchange and is equally a public diplomacy effort to bring mutual understanding among exchange visitors and the US citizens they encounter. Taking part in an overseas experience like this builds leadership, confidence, patience, and maturity. Sponsors ensure compliance with program regulations and provide support and advice while participants are in the United States in cases of concerns, misunderstandings, and emergencies. The leadership of ACES has over 25 years of combined experience in the exchange programs and boasts over 95% successful completion rate.

VISA SPONSORSHIP

Before you can apply for a J-1 visa, a properly designated US organization must sponsor you. ACES is a US designated sponsor. As a sponsor, ACES, ensures your eligibility for participation in the program and then issues forms DS 2019 necessary to apply for the J-1 Visa at the US Embassy. ACES will provide you with your forms DS2019 as well as additional documents and detailed information needed to arrange your Embassy interview.

ELIGIBILITY



Summer Work Travel participants must:

- ✓ *Be bona fide* post-secondary students currently enrolled in and actively pursuing a degree or a full-time course of study at an accredited educational institution and completed at least one semester
- ✓ Be at least 18 years old and completed at least one semester
- ✓ Be in good health
- ✓ Be proficient in English
- ✓ Have no criminal background

PROGRAM DURATION

The term of employment and/or the internship are dictated by the shortest of the summer work travel dates, otherwise known as the “window of opportunity,” established by their home country or their university’s official summer break. The program can be no less than three weeks and may not exceed four months. Participants are permitted to enter the US up to 30 days prior to their start date and are eligible to travel for up to 30 days after the employment end date as long as that travel is within their official summer break and they return home for their first day of classes.

JOB PLACEMENTS

Do I need a job offer to obtain my visa?

Yes. If you are eligible for the summer work travel program, you can apply for job placement which means one of our pre-approved employers can review your profile/CV and offer you a job. You have the right to accept or decline any job offer, but we cannot guarantee a new job offer.

What if I already have a job offer?

If you already have a job offer, the employer will need to submit a seasonality survey and job agreement along with housing information (if housing is supplied) for sponsor vetting and approval. If approved, you can apply for visa sponsorship as a self-placement. Employment can be denied depending on the employer’s willingness to provide required documentation, proof of seasonality, lack of reasonable and available housing, and location if outside of other placements and sponsor representatives.

MEDICAL INSURANCE

Do I need to get emergency medical insurance?

Yes. You will need to secure the group emergency medical insurance approved by ACES. All participants **MUST** be enrolled in this policy that exceeds the coverage outlined in the federal guide- lines for the Exchange Visitor Program. All participants are automatically enrolled and billed for a coverage period reflective of your program dates. Students planning to travel during the 30-day grace period after employment or entering up to 30 days prior to program start date will need to contact the ACES office for insurance extension. Insurance extension is not required but is strongly recommended. Medical services in the US can be extremely expensive!

ACCESSIBLE FUNDS

How much money do I need accessible to me to cover initial living expenses?

There are a few other costs that you are likely to incur in your participation in the program, especially at the beginning. You will need to have at least \$1000 in funds over and beyond expected housing deposits and first week rent accessible to you in anticipation of any possible flight delays and changes that could result in additional costs relating to food, overnight lodging, transportation changes, and incidentals in getting to your final destination.

TRAVEL

Can I travel outside of the United States on my J-1 visa?

If you travel outside of the US either as part of your employment or for enjoyment, you will need to contact ACES at least 4 weeks in advance. A representative of ACES must sign the Form DS 2019 to indicate that you are traveling and are still in "good standing" with your employer who is expecting you to return. If you leave the U.S. without this signature of "good standing" you may not be permitted to reenter the US under the J-1 visa and you will forfeit your work eligibility and your insurance coverage.

How long can I stay in the United States after my employment contract?

The J-1 visa allows you to travel within the continental US for not more than thirty days after your work eligibility as indicated on your form DS 2019.



2-YEAR FOREIGN RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

Participants may be subject to a 2-Year foreign residency requirement. This means that the exchange visitor must reside and be physically present in the country of nationality or last legal permanent residence for an aggregate of at least two years following the departure of the US before the exchange visitor is eligible to apply for an immigrant visa or permanent residence, a nonimmigrant H visa as a temporary worker or trainee, or a nonimmigrant L visa as in intracompany transferee, or a nonimmigrant

Are you subject to the 2-year foreign residence requirement?

An exchange visitor (EV) may be subject to the two-year foreign residence requirement of Section 212(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), for one or more of the following reasons:

- The EV's participation in an exchange program was funded by the United States Government, EV's own government, or an international organization.
- The education, training, or skill the EV is pursuing in an exchange program appears on the Exchange Visitor Skills List (1997 Amendment) for EV's country.
- The EV acquired J-1 status on or after January 10, 1977, for the purpose of receiving graduate medical education or training.

If you are subject, what does that mean?

If you are subject to the two-year foreign residence requirement, you may not change your status to that of H, L, or K, or to immigrant or legal permanent status until you have fulfilled the two-year foreign residence requirement by going back to your home country or receiving a waiver of this requirement.

What if I am not sure if this applies to me?

If you are not sure whether the INA 212(e) two-year foreign residence applies to you, you may make a written request for an advisory for the applicability of INA 212(e) to your situation. The advisory opinion request should include legible copies of every/all DS-2019/ IAP-66 ever issued to you, along with a self-addressed envelope, and should be sent to:

INA 212(e) Advisory Opinion Request The Waiver Review Division, CA/VO/L/W SA-1, L-603
U.S. State Department
2401 E Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20522-0106

More information can be found on the Department of State website; <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/exchange/waiver-of-the-exchange-visitor/eligibility.html>

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

If you are working with one of our trusted recruiting agency, they will assist you through the entire process: assessing eligibility, assisting with the application process, conducting required program interview, and upon accepting a job offer, will assist with your visa application with the embassy and organizing or advising on travel. You, however, are ultimately responsible for obtaining your visa and for assuring that your papers are processed correctly when entering and exiting the United States of America (USA), so please be sure to read through the **SWT Visa Application Process** and the **SWT Pre-Departure Orientation** information carefully. If you have any questions about the process after reviewing this information, contact your recruiting agency or email us at visa@dealwithaces.com.



ACES offers all participants access to our resource page. The resource page includes links to letters and forms as well as other helpful information: <http://www.dealwithaces.com/j1-participant-resource-page>.

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