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## **INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR BRINGING A J-1 VISITING INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE VISITOR TO CAMPUS**

### **J-1 EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM INFORMATION**

The information submitted on the UM St. Louis International Scholar Application Form allows International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) to prepare a J-1 immigration document, the DS-2019, for a visiting international student to conduct research or engage in scholarly activities as a participant in UM St. Louis's J-1 Exchange Visitor Program. The DS-2019 is used to obtain a J-1 visa from a U.S. consulate abroad. A J-1 visa is necessary for the visiting international student to enter the U.S. as an Exchange Visitor.

Besides enabling a prospective Exchange Visitor to apply for a J-1 visa, the DS-2019 provides the U.S. government with information it compiles about activities taking place under the Exchange Visitor Program. It also enables the American consular official who issues the visa to make a preliminary determination as to whether or not the Exchange Visitor is subject to the "two-year foreign residence requirement" (Section 212[e] of the Immigration and Nationality Act). According to this requirement, Exchange Visitors are subject to the two year home requirement if they: 1. receive financial support from a U.S. government agency or their home government; or 2. are engaged in a field of study that has been listed by their country of nationality (or permanent residence if presently living there) as one in short supply in that country. Exchange Visitors who are subject to the two year home requirement are not eligible to applying for permanent residence ("green card") or a temporary worker (H or L) visa for the U.S. until they have spent two years in their home country. Waivers of this provision are generally difficult to obtain.

### **J-1 VISITING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

These forms should be used solely for individuals who are students enrolled in an academic degree program abroad. These forms should not be used for students who have been accepted to at a degree program at UM St. Louis or will be enrolled in classes here.

**Note:** It is required that all J-1 Exchange Visitors and dependents have health insurance during their entire stay. Visiting international students are eligible to obtain the policy available to UM St. Louis international students and scholars. Contact ISSS for more information and current rates.

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING FORMS A AND B**

There are two forms that need to be completed to invite a J-1 Exchange Visitor. Form A must be completed and authorized by a UM St. Louis faculty member or department and includes information about the duties, field of study and verification of any campus financial support. Form B should be forwarded to the visiting international student to complete and includes biographical, dependent and any

external funding information. Forms A and B, along with any required supporting documentation, should be submitted together to ISSS by fax or email.

Forms A and B must be completed in full before ISSS can process the DS-2019. Without the DS-2019, the prospective visiting international student will not be able to obtain a J-1 visa to enter the United States as a J-1 exchange visitor.

Forms A and B should be submitted approximately two months before the visiting international student's proposed arrival date to ensure there is time for both the preparation and mailing of the DS-2019, as well as to give the visiting international student sufficient time to apply for a J-1 visa.

**Note:** Please notify ISSS if there is a delay in the expected start date of a visiting international student's J-1 program. US Immigration Services do not permit a J-1 visiting international student to enter the U.S. more than 30 days before or after the start date on the DS-2019.