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INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR BRINGING A J-1 EXCHANGE VISITOR TO CAMPUS TO TEACH OR CONDUCT RESEARCH

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 scholar wishing to obtain a J-1 visa to enter the U.S. 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 scholar to enter the U.S. as an Exchange Visitor. If already in the U.S. in J-1 status, the scholar will need to transfer from the program in which he or she is presently participating to UM St. Louis's J-1 program. The current program sponsor will need to release the scholar for transfer to UM St. Louis in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).

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. Exchange Visitors who are subject to the two year home requirement are not eligible to applying for permanent residence ("green card") or temporary worker (H or L) status in the U.S. until they have spent two years in their home country. Waivers of this provision are generally difficult to obtain.

Note: J-1 status is appropriate only for a scholar who is coming to the University temporarily for a non-tenure track position. Generally speaking, only individuals who have at least a Master's degree in an applicable field of study are eligible for J-1 status as a Professor, Research Scholar or Short-term Scholar.

J-1 SCHOLAR CATEGORIES

The Department of State has designated UM-St. Louis as a sponsor of J-1 Exchange Visitors for the following categories: (1) Professor, (2) Research Scholar, and (3) Short-term Scholar.

1. Professors are scholars who are primarily engaged in teaching. J-1 Professors may engage in research even if it is not the primary objective of their visit. J-1 professors may not be appointed to tenure-track positions and are not eligible for J-1 status for more than five years.

2. Research Scholar are scholars who are primarily engaged in research. J-1 Research Scholars may teach even if it is not the primary objective of their visit. Researcher Scholars are also limited to five years in J-1 status.

3. Short-term scholars are defined as "scholars coming to the United States for a period of up to six months to lecture, observe, consult, and to participate in seminars, workshops, conferences, study tours, professional meetings, or similar types of educational and professional activities" (22 CFR 514.21[b]). There is no possibility of extending the program beyond six months.

Note: A person who has been in J status in the previous twelve months is not eligible to be a J-1 professor or research scholar, unless the professor/research scholar is eligible for a program transfer.

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 scholar 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 scholar 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 scholar'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 scholar time to apply for a J-1 visa.

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