

Academic Training and J 1 Visa Employment

By

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**UH International Student and Scholar Services
Employment Seminar**

Purpose of the Exchange Visitor Program

The Exchange Visitor Program is designed primarily to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of an educational and cultural exchange.

- Common ground working together
- Mutual Agreement between countries
- Acceptance of differences

Maintaining J Student Status

- Study at the Institution Listed on DS-2019
- Requirement to pursue a full course of study
- Academic training is work, training or experience related to a student's field of study.

Types of J Student Employment

- Employment work training related to major & experience (Academic Training)
- Employment related to academic funding
- Employment occurs on the UH campus
- Employment off-campus which is necessary because of serious, urgent, and unforeseen economic circumstances that have arisen since acquiring exchange visitor status. (Economic necessity)

Employment in J Student Status

- Authorization of academic training employment must be done in advance before the employment begins.
- Employment can be granted 12 months at a time.
- J Student Employment can be authorized by a RO/ARO

J Student Academic Training

- Academic Training must be related to the student's major field of study.
- Can be paid or unpaid, while in school and after completion of training.
- May work with several employers, US or foreign provided the application and approval procedures are followed for each employer and activity, time limits are not exceeded.

J Student Academic Training

- J-1 Student is primarily in USA to study rather than engage in academic training.
- Student is in good academic standing with the university or college & have valid insurance while on academic training.
- Must apply in advance and receive approval to participate in Academic Training with specific employer or training site.

Academic Training Program

- Effective 08/10/2018 Guidance Directive added additional guidance on the scope and structure of academic training for J-1 College and University students category.
 - 1) Academic Training Program must consist of training activities that are connected to a substantial academic framework.
 - 2) Designed to expose participants to the operations of their field.

Academic Training Program

- 3) Prioritize academic objectives and are not driven by the labor needs of a host organization.
- 4) consist primarily substantive roles (shadowing managers, participating in project design; management, or event planning)

Academic Training Time Limitations

- Undergraduates, Non-degree, Pre-Doctoral maximum time is 18 months.
- Post-Doctoral training limit cannot exceed 36 months inclusive of any prior academic training in USA as exchange visitor or full course of study period.
- All academic training is counted as full-time even if employment is on a part-time basis.

J-1 Professors & Research Scholars

- Only permitted to work as described on the DS-2019 primary site of activity.
- May have incidental employment if employment is authorized by the sponsor in accordance with the regulations
- Occasional lectures or consultations are allowed if approved in advance in writing by the RO/ARO and Sponsor.

J-1 Professors & Researchers

- Are prohibited from doing any work outside of their original program objective.
- J-1 Principal and all J-2 Dependents are required to have sickness and accident insurance, medical evacuation & repatriation in effect for duration

Employment of Dependents

- Dependent spouse is permitted to apply for an Employment Authorization Card (EAD) from Department of Homeland Security.(DHS)
- Restriction applies, employment cannot be for the purpose of supporting the J-1.

Employment Reminders

- Unauthorized Employment is Illegal
- Passport must be valid (6 months into the future)
- Employment at another site of activity must benefit UH, and the goals of the of the Exchange Visitor program.

J-1 Visa Holders Not Eligible for Any Government Assistance

- You are Not eligible for Federal Assistance
- Do not accept Food Stamps
- You and dependents are not eligible to accept CHIP(Children's Health Insurance Program) it is federal program that provides health coverage for Eligible Children

Review/Questions

- Academic Training must be applied for before completion of degree.
- Researchers/Professors are prohibited from working outside of their program objective on DS-2019