J-1 VISA Exchange Visitor Program

Connecting People, Creating Understanding

Around 300,000 participants from more than 200 countries and territories visit the United States on J-1 visas each year. Eighty-six percent are 30 years of age or younger. Fifty-four percent are women or girls. More than 1,400 designated U.S. sponsors participate in the program.

What is the Exchange Visitor Program (EVP)?

The EVP provides opportunities for around 300,000 foreign visitors per year to experience United States (U.S.) society and culture and engage with Americans. There are fifteen different categories under the J-1 visa program, of which, thirteen categories include privately-funded programs that are implemented under the auspices of the Office of Private Sector Exchange in the Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The Department designates more than 1,400 for-profit, non-profit, or federal, state, and local government entities to conduct such private sector programs. Exchange visitors on private sector programs may study, teach, do research, share their specialized skills, or receive on-the-job training for periods ranging from a few weeks to several years. In addition to the thirteen private sector exchange categories listed below, the J-1 visa program also includes two categories that are publicly funded: International Visitors and Government Visitors.

Who Comes on the EVP?

EVP participants are young leaders and entrepreneurs, students, fledgling and more seasoned professionals eager to hone their skills, strengthen their English language abilities, connect with Americans, and learn more about the U.S. Most individuals choosing to come to the U.S. on a J-1 visa exchange program are funded privately. J-1 visa exchanges include a cultural component that gives participants the opportunity to engage more broadly with Americans and share their own cultures with their U.S. host communities. They return home eager to stay connected, to expand their networks, and to explore future exchange opportunities as "citizen ambassadors."

Where can I learn more about the EVP?

Find out more about J-1 visa Exchange Visitor Program at: **http://j1visa.state.gov**

Private Sector Exchange Categories

http://j1visa.state.gov/programs

Professors and Research Scholars: These two categories promote the exchange of ideas, research, and linkages between research and academic institutions in the United States and foreign countries.

Short-term Scholars: Professors, scholars, and other accomplished individuals travel on a short-term visit to lecture, observe, consult, train, or demonstrate special skills at U.S. research and academic institutions, museums, and libraries.

Trainees: Professionals with a degree, professional certificate, or relevant work experience gain exposure to U.S. culture and receive training in U.S. business practices through a structured and guided work-based program.

Interns: College and university students or recent graduates gain exposure to U.S. culture as they experience U.S. business practices in their chosen occupational field.

College and University Students: Students study at a U.S. degree-granting post-secondary accredited academic institution, participating in a degree, non-degree, or student internship program.

Teachers: Educators teach full-time at a U.S. accredited primary or secondary school or in an accredited pre-kindergarten program.

Secondary School Students: Secondary school students study at an accredited public or private high school and live with an American host family or at an accredited boarding school.

Specialists: Experts in a field of specialized knowledge observe U.S. institutions and methods of practice and share their knowledge with their U.S. colleagues.

Alien Physicians: Foreign medical graduates pursue graduate medical education or training at a U.S. accredited school of medicine or scientific institution, or pursue programs involving observation, consultation, teaching, or research.

Camp Counselors: Post-secondary students, youth workers, teachers or others with specialized skills interact with and supervise American youth at U.S. camps.

Au Pairs: A young adult lives with a host family for 12 months and experiences U.S. culture while providing child care and taking courses at an accredited U.S. post-secondary institution.

Summer Work Travel Program: College and university students at foreign universities gain first-hand experience as they work in seasonal or temporary jobs and travel in the United States during their summer.