



TEXAS INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

Maintaining Your Non-Immigrant Status for J-1 Exchange Visitors

Failure to maintain your non-immigrant status can result in termination of your DS-2019 and deportation from the United States. Please read the information below about maintaining your status and contact your institution's international office if you have questions.

Entering the U.S.

You may enter the U.S. up to 30 days before the start date on your DS-2019. Please contact your institution if you will be entering the country more than 15 days after your program start date so that your program dates can be deferred.

Orientation and SEVIS Validation

You must meet with your institution's international office when you arrive in the U.S. for mandatory orientation. Your institution will collect the documentation required to validate your program in SEVIS; this includes proof of health insurance. Validation must occur within 30 days of the start date on your DS-2019 or your DS-2019 may be terminated.

Maintain Valid Documents

All exchange visitors must maintain a valid DS-2019, a valid passport and an I-94 card marked D/S. If you need to extend your DS-2019, please contact your international office in advance of your program end date.

Engage in Appropriate Activities

Each exchange visitor category has a definition and expectations for the activities of the exchange visitor. J-1 students must be enrolled full time in the program described on their DS-2019. If you are having trouble completing the activities required for your program, please contact your international office as soon as possible.

Authorized Employment

Do not engage in unauthorized employment. Consult your international office before accepting any offers of employment outside of your program.

Health Insurance

Exchange visitors must have appropriate health insurance covering them for the entire length of their program. You should arrange your health insurance coverage before you leave your home country so that you are covered on the first day of your arrival.

Report Address Changes

Report changes of address to your institution's international office within 10 days of moving.

Dependents

J-2 dependents can include a spouse and any children less than 21 years of age. J-2 dependents must also have health insurance covering them for the entire length of the J-1's program. J-2 dependents should attend orientation. Dependents must apply to USCIS for authorization before accepting employment.

Travel

Before you travel outside the U.S., you must get your original DS-2019 signed by TIEC. You should contact your international office one month before you plan to travel. TIEC will check with your institution to make sure you are in status before signing your DS-2019 for travel. Make sure that your J-1 visa is valid for reentry.

Leaving the U.S.

You have a 30-day grace period to leave the U.S. after your DS-2019 end date. If you leave during the grace period, you may not re-enter the U.S. on your J-1 visa.