



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Global Engagement

International Student & Scholar Services

J1 Exchange Program

Overview

- What is the J1 Exchange program
- J1 categories
- Requirements of Hosting Department
- Requirements of ISSS
- Cultural Program with ISSS
- ISSS Information



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What is the J1 Exchange program?

- Created by Department of State to promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through educational and cultural exchanges.
- The expectation is that the exchange visitor is coming to the United States for a period of time and then to return home.



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J1 Categories

- J1 Professor
- J1 Research Scholar
- J1 Short Term Scholar
- J1 Student Intern
- J1 Student (Degree or Non-Degree seeking)



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J1 Professor

- Timeframe: Minimum 3 weeks and up to a total of 5 years
- Primary Purpose is teaching, lecturing, observing, or consulting at Texas A&M University
- CANNOT be a candidate for a tenure-track position



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J1 Research Scholar

- Timeframe: Minimum 3 weeks and up to a total of 5 years
- Primary Purpose is conducting research, observing, or consulting in connection with a research project at Texas A&M University or Texas A&M University system. They can also teach or lecture if authorized by ISSS.
- CANNOT be a candidate for a tenure-track position



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J1 Short Term Scholar

- Timeframe: Minimum 1 day and up to 6 months.
- Primary Purpose is for a short-term visit for the purpose of lecturing, observing, consulting, training, or demonstrating special skills at Texas A&M University or Texas A&M University system.



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J1 Student Intern

- Timeframe: Minimum 3 weeks and up to 12 months
- Primary Purpose is for a foreign college and university student who is pursuing a degree (Bachelor's or Master's) to come to the United States to gain exposure to the U.S. Culture and to receive hands-on experience
- The internship will “fulfill the educational objectives for his or her current degree program at their home institution
- Must be currently enrolled at an academic institution in their home country.
- Internship must take place prior to graduating from their program in their home country.



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J1 Student (Degree or Non-Degree seeking)

- Timeframe: Dependent upon program they are admitted to and amount of funding provided.
- Individual is fully admitted to a degree seeking program at Texas A&M University (Bachelors, Masters, or PhD)
- Individual is admitted to a Non-Degree seeking program as a participant in the Reciprocal Exchange Program thru Education Abroad.



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Initial Immigration Process

- Process starts with admissions/offer
- Hosting Department/Exchange Visitor apply for DS-2019 with ISSS
 - EV must show proof of financial resources to get DS2019 – this can be personal, funding from home government, TAMU, etc.
- ISSS processes the DS2019
- Exchange Visitor applies for J1 visa
 - Timeframes can vary due to visa appointment times and administrative processing
- Exchange Visitor travels and comes thru Port of Entry
 - Obtain I-94 which grants status
- Exchange Visitor submits check-in with ISSS to make SEVIS active



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Expectations of Hosting Department

- Communication with EV
 - *Location where they will be going*
 - *What will they be doing and expectations of the program*
 - *Housing, Transportation, etc.*
- Communication with ISSS
 - *Change in program dates such as ending program early or extending*
 - *Changes to PI or other departmental contacts*
 - *Changes in Funding*
 - *Inform situations that may arise with exchange visitor (good or bad)*
 - Ex: health condition, research issues or milestone



Expectations of ISSS

- Assistance with Immigration Status
- Reporting to Department of State
- Cultural Programming
- Health Insurance



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Reporting to Department of State

J-VISA EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM: INCIDENT REPORTING RUBRIC for ACADEMIC/GOVERNMENT CATEGORIES

This reporting rubric should be used by U.S. Department of State (DOS)–designated Exchange Visitor Program sponsors as a general guideline for reporting incidents involving J-1 exchange visitors to the DOS pursuant to 22 CFR 62.13(d) in the following categories: College and University Student, Government Visitor, Professor, Research Scholar, Short-term Scholar, and Specialist. The examples provided below are not meant to be exhaustive (i.e., there may be other serious situations, not listed below, that have or could endanger the health, safety, or welfare of an exchange visitor or otherwise could be expected to bring the Department of State, the Exchange Visitor Program, or the sponsor's exchange visitor program into notoriety or disrepute). Sponsors can locate the incident report form at <https://j1visa.state.gov/academic-program-sponsors>. Please email the form to the Office of Private Sector Exchange Program Administration's Academic and Government (OPA-AG) team at AGAlert@state.gov. While an incident report form is preferred in all situations, an email regarding an evolving situation, to be followed later by an incident report, is acceptable.

Nature of Incident or Allegation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exchange Visitor Death• Exchange Visitor Missing, Absconder, or Overstay (i.e., whereabouts unknown or intentionally left the program without notifying sponsor)• Serious Behavioral Problems (e.g., substance abuse, bullying, or harassment)• Serious Medical Issues (e.g., cancer diagnosis, surgery, or any condition requiring hospitalization of 48 hours or more)• Serious Mental Health Concerns (e.g., suicidal ideation or attempt, eating disorder, self-harm, psychiatric hold and/or hospitalization, or early program end due to mental health)• Sexually-Related Incident or Abuse (e.g., incident or allegation involving sexual exploitation, harassment, assault, or misconduct)• Incident Involving the Criminal Justice System (e.g., arrest, charges, incarceration, detention, or other law enforcement involvement)• Incidents Involving Child Protective Services• Fraud (e.g., visa, immigration, or financial fraud or scam)• Theft of Intellectual Property or Violations of Import/Export Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lost or Stolen Immigration Documents (e.g., lost or stolen passport/visa or stolen Form DS-2019)• Unsuitable Host/Work Conditions (e.g., incident or allegation involving workplace bullying, harassment, discrimination, hostile work environment, or work hours and/or wage-related issues)• Actual or Potential Negative Press (i.e., incident expected to bring DOS, the sponsor, or the Exchange Visitor Program into notoriety or disrepute)• Foreign Government Involvement (including Foreign Embassy or Consulate Involvement)• Litigation (Lawsuits) or Other Legal Actions (related to the Exchange Visitor Program, in which a sponsor, site of activity, or an exchange visitor may be a named party)• Public Security Incident or Natural Disasters Directly Involving Exchange Visitor Safety (e.g., bombing, shooting, other acts of violence, civil unrest, fire, tornado, flood, or hurricane)• Port of Entry Issues (e.g., applicant found inadmissible resulting in withdrawal of application for admission, expedited removal, or Notice to Appear)



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Health Insurance

- Upon arrival Exchange visitors must provide proof of health insurance for themselves and their dependents.
- Should be coverage from program start date/arrival date
- Coverage for both J1 and J2 dependents (if arrived)
- Must meet J1 minimum requirements
 - <https://global.tamu.edu/iss/health-and-safety/health-insurance/scholars-and-interns>
- Health Insurance coverage must remain active entire period of J1 even if traveling outside the United States



Cultural Programing with ISSS

- Welcome Bag
- Ground Shuttle Services IAH to College Station
- Tickets for on campus events such as MSC Opus
- Picnic at Lake Bryan
- Thanksgiving Lunch
- Bi-weekly Orientations



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ISSS Information

- Email: j1scholars@tamu.edu
- Processing time: 15 business days
- Virtual Drop in Advising
- <https://global.tamu.edu/iss/scholars-and-interns>



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Division of Research

Research Security and Export Controls

Visiting Scholars, Remote Collaborators,
and Others Access to Texas A&M University
Research, Facilities and Resources

Access to Research, Facilities and Other Resources

- Visiting Scholars
- Remote Collaborators
- Former employees and students
- Consultants, Subrecipients, Vendors, etc.



Visiting Scholars

A Visiting Scholar is an individual employed or affiliated with another organization who has been invited and approved by Texas A&M University to come to the campus for an extended period of time to collaborate on specific research, clinical, or other scholarly activities.

Visitors who are **NOT** designated as a Visiting Scholar:

- are accompanied by authorized University personnel at all times;
- do not need access to facilities or resources (including UIN, email address, library, etc.);
- are not performing “hands-on” research or teaching; **and**
- are visiting for a short duration of time (approximately 10 days or less)

Examples of these visits include campus tours, conferences, collaboration meetings, presentation of a paper, etc.



Remote Collaborators

- An individual not involved in an employer/employee relationship with Texas A&M University participating remotely in specific research, clinical or other scholarly activities with Texas A&M University.



Review Process for Visiting Scholars and Remote Collaborators

- All visiting scholars and remote collaborators who have access to Texas A&M research and/or clinical facilities or resources must have prior approval from the department or division head, the college dean and the Division of Research.
 - These approvals are documented on the [5VS Visiting Scholar Request Form](#).
- The following will be completed before a 5VS form is approved:
 - Review of visitor's research activities, expertise and alignment with host faculty member
 - Review of the host faculty member's research awards
 - Perform restricted party screenings
 - Execute an NDA or IP agreement, if needed
 - Notify applicable compliance committee of visiting scholar on IRB or IACUC protocol, and IBC Permit
 - Notify SRS if activities are conducted on a sponsored research award
 - Confirm host has completed the basic export control training in SSO



Access to Research, Facilities, and Other Resources

- Things to think about prior to requesting access:
 - Research Restrictions vs. Fundamental Research
 - Intellectual Property
 - Activities on a Sponsored Research Award
 - Compliance Protocols (IRB, IBC, AUP, TCP)
 - Applicable Trainings
 - Shared Labs
 - Extended Leave
 - Items Leaving the U.S.
 - Future Collaborations



Updates

- A&M System [Regulation 15.05.04 High-Risk Global Engagements and High-Risk International Collaborations](#)
 - Countries of Concern: China (including Hong Kong and Macau), Russia, Iran, and North Korea
 - Risk Based List
 - Separate approval needed for future collaborations
- Remote Collaborators located in a Country of Concern
- Russia
- China Scholarship Council
- Foreign Influence



Questions

- Visiting/Remote Scholars: visitingscholar@tamu.edu
- Website: [Visiting Scholars – Division of Research \(tamu.edu\)](https://www.tamu.edu/divisionofresearch/visiting-scholars)

