

J-1 SHORT-TERM SCHOLARS

You will be entering the United States as a J-1 Short-term Scholar. This page contains important information about your J-1 status and the immigration laws that affect that status.

“SEVIS” Immigration database:

As a visitor entering the U.S. in the J-1 visa category, you will be issued a document, the form DS-2019, which is produced through the SEVIS (Student Exchange Visitor Information System) database administered and maintained by U.S. immigration agencies. Prior to applying for your visa a \$180 SEVIS fee must be paid. Please see information included on methods of paying the fee.

6-month time limit on visit:

As a J-1 Short-term Scholar, you may stay in the U.S. for a maximum of 6 months.

Two Year Homestay Requirement:

Some visiting Short-term Scholars are required to spend two years in their home country before they are allowed to return to the U.S. for any type of long-term stay. If your program was financed by your home government or by the U.S. government, or if the skills you gained in the U.S. are in short supply in your home country, you will be subject to this home stay requirement. The 2-year home stay (after completion of your program) allows your home country to benefit from your experience in the U.S. Please read the attached information entitled “TWO YEAR HOME-COUNTRY PHYSICAL PRESENCE REQUIREMENT” and page 2 of your DS-2019 at subsection (a) for more details on whether or not the two-year home country physical stay requirement applies to you

Traveling outside the U.S. on J-1 status:

To be readmitted to the U.S. in J-1 status after short trips out of the country, you will need to have the International Student/Scholar Advisor in our office sign your DS-2019. The signature of the International Student/Scholar Advisor confirms for the immigration inspector that you are affiliated with UAF and that you have sufficient finances to return to the U.S.

Before leaving the country, you need to make sure that your visa is still valid. If your visa has expired, or if you have used all “entries” that your visa allows, you will not be admitted back into the U.S. You will need to go to a U.S. embassy or consulate abroad and apply for a new visa.