

Academic Training and Employment for Students and Scholars (J1)

Employment in J Student Status

J-1 students may be authorized to engage in two types of employment under 22 CFR 62.23(g)

1. Academic Training (related to the course of study)
2. Other Employment, including
 - Employment pursuant to a scholarship, fellowship, or assistantship
 - On-campus employment at the post-secondary accredited institution
 - Off-campus employment due to serious, urgent, and unforeseen economic necessity

Each type of employment has specific criteria, approval requirements, and limitations.

Academic Training

Academic Training allows J-1 students to engage in work, training, or experience directly related to their major field of study. It may:

- Be paid or unpaid
- Involve sequential or simultaneous employment with multiple employers (U.S. or foreign)
- Occur before or after completion of studies, subject to time limits

Eligibility Requirements for Academic Training

To qualify, the student must:

- Must be in the U.S. primarily to study rather than engage in academic training
- Must be in good academic standing
- Must secure employment or training directly related to the major listed on the DS-2019
- Must receive written approval in advance from the Responsible Officer (RO) or Alternate Responsible Officer (ARO)
- Ensure employment does not exceed permitted duration and hours

Academic Training Time Limitations

- Degree Programs:
 - Undergraduate and Predoctoral students: Up to 18 months (whether before or after completion of studies), additional time may be granted if necessary to satisfy the mandatory requirements of the degree program

- Postdoctoral students: Up to 36 months (18 months, plus up to an additional 18 months if necessary)
- Nondegree Programs:
 - Total stay is limited to 24 months, including all study and authorized academic training
- Part-time Academic Training
 - All academic training is counted as full-time, even if employment is on a part-time basis

Procedures for Granting Academic Training

- Students must present a Letter of Recommendation from their academic advisor, detailing
 - Goals and objectives of the training program
 - Description of the training, including location, supervisor, hours per week, dates
 - How the training relates to the student's major field of study
 - Why the training is an integral or critical part of the academic program
- Letter of Authorization from the RO/ARO at the International Student & Scholar Services Office
- SEVIS record must be updated to reflect the approved academic training before it begins
- Must commence no later than 30 days after the completion of studies
- Program end date must be extended on SEVIS before it expires

On-Campus J-1 Student Employment

- Must be approved in writing in advance by the RO/ARO
- Limited to 20 hours per week during the academic term
- Full-time employment is allowed during official school breaks and annual vacations
- Must be pursuant to a scholarship, fellowship, or assistantship OR occur on the premises of the school

J-1 Employment Off Campus

- Permitted only in cases of serious, urgent, and unforeseen economic necessity that arose after acquiring J-1 status
- Requires prior written authorization from the RO/ARO
- Limited to 20 hours per week during the academic term, but full-time employment may be allowed during breaks
- The SEVIS record must be updated to reflect employment authorization

I-9 Compliance for J-1 Students

- J-1 students must present a valid DS-2019, I-94, and a letter from the RO/ARO authorizing employment to complete Form I-9

J-1 Professors and Research Scholars

- Employment must align with the program activity described on Form DS-2019
- Additional employment must be approved by the sponsor in accordance with regulations
- Unrelated employment is strictly prohibited
- Occasional lectures or consultations are allowed if approved in writing by the sponsor in advance

Employment of J-2 Dependents

- Eligible to apply for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
- Employment must not be for the purpose of financially supporting the J-1 student
- Application must be submitted through the International Student and Scholar Services Office

Self-Employment and Academic Training

- Self-employment is generally not permitted for J-1 academic training, as it requires a training supervisor and structured training program

Multiple Employers or Change of Employers

- Academic training may involve multiple employers, provided each employer and activity is approved, and time limits are not exceeded.

Evaluation of Academic Training

- Sponsors must evaluate the effectiveness and appropriateness of the academic training in achieving the stated goals and objectives.
- Sponsors should maintain documentation of the training program and ensure it aligns with the student's academic goals.