

J-1 Scholar Coordinator Training

Global Education Office

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geo@unm.edu;

Scholar Issues need to be communicated via:

iadvisor@unm.edu

Meeting Agenda

- I. J-Exchange Program Overview
- II. Steps for Inviting a J-1 Scholar
- III. Responsibilities and Obligations
- IV. Scholar Orientation
- V. Activities & Events for Scholars
- VI. Questions ???

Global Education Office

Advisors

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- ❖ *Office Hours:* Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm
- ❖ *Walk-in hours:* Monday-Friday, 1:00-3:00pm, Monday and Thursday 10:00–noon (during the academic year only)
- ❖ *Appointments:* Call to schedule an appointment
- ❖ *International Scholar Orientation:* Ongoing Wednesdays at 10:00 am (1 to 1.5 hours)

GEO Scholar Services

GEO provides services to international students and scholars coming to the University of New Mexico (UNM), coordinates opportunities for UNM students to study overseas and offers intensive English language programs to students interested in studying in the U.S.

Scholar-specific services:

- Providing information, training, and support to departments seeking to invite international professors and researchers.
- Providing support to departments for the duration of the J-1 Scholar visit
- Issuing DS-2019 Certificates of Eligibility for visa application
- Assisting scholars to understand the immigration rules for maintaining legal non-immigrant status while in the United States and for entering and leaving the U.S.
- Identifying campus and community resources
- Providing cultural adjustment and social activities

What is a J-1 Scholar Coordinator?

(What did I get myself into?)

J-1 Scholar Coordinators are designated by their department to handle all inquiries and requests from departmental faculty and staff regarding visiting scholars. The J-1 Scholar Coordinator is responsible for:

- Serving as a liaison between GEO, the department, the scholar, and the inviting faculty member.
- Accurately completing and submitting the DS-2019 request and Departmental Responsibilities letter for each new scholar or extension. Retrieving and sending the original DS-2019 to the scholar.
- Following the steps provided by GEO via email once the DS-2019 is generated. This includes contacting the appropriate employment office to enter the scholar in Banner.
- Communicating with GEO in advance regarding changes in the visiting scholar's program or any incidents involving the scholar.
- Informing GEO of the scholar's arrival and scheduling the scholar for orientation immediately after arrival at UNM.

J-1 Exchange Program Overview

The Exchange Visitor (J) Program is administered by the Department of State (DOS) to “promote mutual understanding between people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchanges.”

For more information:

<http://j1visa.state.gov/>

J-1 Exchange Visitor Program – Categories

UNM is authorized to bring the following J-1 Exchange Visitors:

- ❖ Professor
- ❖ Research Scholar
- ❖ Short-Term Scholar
- ❖ Specialist
- ❖ Student (*reserved for those who maintain full-time enrollment in academic programs at UNM. J-1 students are typically exchange or government sponsored students*)

J-1 Exchange Visitor Program Categories

Professor:

An individual primarily teaching, lecturing, observing, or consulting at post-secondary accredited educational institutions, museums, or libraries. May also conduct research.

J-1 Exchange Visitor Program Categories

Research Scholar:

An individual primarily conducting research, observing, or consulting in connection with a research project at research institutions, corporate research facilities, museums, or libraries. May also teach or lecture.

J-1 Exchange Visitor Program – Categories

Short-Term Scholar:

A professor, research scholar, specialist, or a person with similar education or accomplishments coming to the US on a short-term visit for the purpose of lecturing, observing, consulting, training, or demonstrating special skills at research institutions, museums, libraries, and post-secondary accredited educational institutions. May also engage in collaborative research.

J-1 Exchange Visitor Program – Categories

Specialist:

An individual who is an expert in a field of specialized knowledge or skill coming to the U.S. for observing or demonstrating special skills.

J-1 Visitor Program – Lengths of Stay

Professors, Research Scholars:

5 year maximum program stay

3 week minimum program stay

Short-term scholars:

6 months maximum program stay ONLY

(NO option of extending beyond 6 months!!)

No minimum program stay

Specialists:

1 year maximum program stay

3 week minimum program stay

J-1 Exchange Visitor Eligibility

Academic credentials - No minimum academic levels are required by DOS but generally at least a bachelor's degree with appropriate experience in the field of endeavor

Must have at least \$1500/month in financial support for the stay at UNM (*an additional \$500/month for a spouse and \$200/month for each child*)

J-1 scholars are not permitted to change the major field of their research or teaching assignment while in the same J-1 program

J-1 Exchange Visitor Eligibility

- Must have “sufficient proficiency in the English language, as determined by an objective measurement of English language proficiency, to participate in his or her program and to function on a day-to-day basis”
- Objective measurements:
 - Recognized English language test
 - Signed documentation from an academic institution or English language school; or
 - A documented interview conducted by the sponsor either in person or by videoconferencing or by telephone if videoconferencing is not a viable option (should be real)

J-1 Exchange Visitor Eligibility

- Departments are responsible for ensuring that the scholar has sufficient English to participate in the program
- If you have concerns or questions, please contact Phillip

Mandatory Health Insurance

- J1 Scholars are required to have health insurance for themselves and their dependents for their entire stay in the US
- Schools are supposed to inform scholars of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) requirements
- Minimum J1 insurance requirements provide LESS coverage than the ACA mandates
- UNM insurance covers these minimums

Mandatory Health Insurance

MINIMUM J1/J-2 INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum coverage of \$100,000 per accident/illness
- \$25,000 for repatriation of remains
- \$50,000 for medical evacuation
- No more than \$500 deductible
- High Rating

Mandatory Health Insurance

- Scholars may elect any health insurance provider that meets the legal criteria for the J visa insurance requirements
- Scholars who are paid by the dept. and have enrolled in one of the employee insurance plans should go to Lobo Care and not SHAC
- These plans currently meet this J visa criteria

Mandatory Health Insurance

If the Department plans to pay for the unpaid scholar's health insurance please indicate this in the appropriate section of the DS-2019 Request Form.

Health Insurance Information

The cost of health and accident insurance will be defrayed by: (____) Dept. or (____) Scholar

The department must establish who will defray the cost of federally mandated health and accident insurance for the scholar and dependents with the following coverage: at least \$100,000 per accident or illness; repatriation of remains in the amount of \$25,000; expenses associated with the medical evacuation of the exchange visitor to his or her home country in the amount of \$50,000; and a deductible not to exceed \$500 per accident or illness.

Rules & Regulations

Bar on tenure track appointments

- J-1 Research Scholar/Professor cannot hold a tenure track position unless they temporarily occupy it as a visiting professor in a position held by a tenured professor on sabbatical
- Specialist cannot fill a permanent or long-term position of employment

12-month bar for J-1 Research Scholars/Professors

A potential visiting scholar is not eligible to begin as a new J-1 Research Scholar/Professor if he or she was physically present in any J status (including J-2 status) for all or part of the 12-month period immediately preceding the date of the program commencement.

There are three exceptions:

- 1) J-1 Exchange Visitor transfer to a new program sponsor;
- 2) Presence in J status for less than 6 months;
- 3) Presence in J status as a Short-Term Scholar.

2 Year (24 month) Bar on Repeat Participation for J-1 Research Scholars/Professors

J-1 Scholars/Professors are eligible for a five year maximum period of participation. Once the scholar has completed his/her program participation and the J record is ended, the scholar will not be permitted to return to the U.S. in the J-1 Research Scholar/Professor category for 2 years (even if they did not use all of the five years during their stay)

212 (e) Home Residency Requirement

Certain J-1 Scholars are subject to a two year home country physical presence requirement. Scholars can be subject to this requirement if:

- Financial support was provided in whole or part by the US government or their home country government, or;
- Their occupation is on the “skills list” for their home country

J-1 Scholars who are subject to the home residency requirement are:

- Prevented from changing to any other type of visa from within the U.S.
- Required to return to their home country for two years before they would be permitted to enter the US with an H (work visa) or L visa, or as a permanent resident.

J-2 Dependents

- Scholars may decide to bring their spouse and/or children with them during their exchange visit to UNM. The DS-2019 Request Form has a section which requests dependent information. The scholar must be able to provide proof of financial support for an additional \$500 per month for a spouse and/or \$200 per month for each child. If there are dependents, GEO will produce a DS-2019 for each of the dependents at the time the scholar DS-2019 is requested.
- Scholars will have to show proof of marriage at the visa interview (no partners)

J-2 Dependents

The following applies to J-2 Dependents:

- Only a spouse and unmarried children under 21 years of age of the J-1 exchange visitor are eligible for J-2 dependent status.
- J-2 dependents are permitted to stay as long as the J-1 maintains legal status and the J-2 children are under 21 years old.
- J-2 dependents are permitted to apply for work authorization from USCIS and can work only after obtaining the employment authorization document (EAD) from immigration.
- J-2 dependents are permitted to study (but encouraged to apply for a student visa at post-secondary level)
- DOS has stated that J-2 dependents of Research Scholars are subject to the 2 year bar on repeat participation. They are also subject to the 12-month bar after previous participation in a J program for more than 6 months.

Which J-1 Category is the Most Appropriate?

- Consider the required minimum and maximum program stay for each category
- Consider the primary activity at UNM (teaching, conducting research, workshops)
- Consider the Scholar's past and future long-term plans in regards to another J-1 program in the US or another program at UNM
- If a scholar has been in the U.S. in any J status in the last 2 years, go through the rules above and discuss the issue with an international advisor at GEO
- Remember that J-2 dependents are also subject to the same bars on participation

Remember! You can always contact GEO if you have questions!

FILLING OUT THE DS-2019 REQUEST FORM

What is a DS-2019?

The DS-2019 or “Certificate of Eligibility” is the document which a scholar must present to the US Embassy or Consulate abroad to obtain a visa and which the scholar must present to immigration officials to enter the U.S. each time s/he travels abroad and returns.

For most J-1 Scholars, the DS-2019 is issued by the University through GEO. GEO uses the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) to create the DS-2019 (this is an official government document that is not supposed to be emailed).

What is the DS-2019?



U.S. Department of State

CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR EXCHANGE VISITOR(J-1) STATUS

OMB APPROVAL NO.1405-0119

EXPIRES: 02-28-2005

ESTIMATED BURDEN TIME: 45 min

*See Page 2

1. Family Name: [REDACTED]		First Name: [REDACTED]		Middle Name: [REDACTED]		Gender: MALE	N0000 [REDACTED]
Date of Birth(mm-dd-yyyy): [REDACTED]		City of Birth: [REDACTED]		Country of Birth: CZECHOSLOVAKIA	Citizenship Country Code: EZ	Citizenship Country: CZECH REPUBLIC	
Legal Permanent Residence Country Code: EZ		Legal Permanent Residence Country: CZECH REPUBLIC		Position Code: 213	Position: UNIVERSITY TEACHING STAFF INCLUDING RESEARCHERS		
U.S. Address: 1 University of New Mexico Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001							
2. Program Sponsor: University of New Mexico						Exchange Visitor Program Number: P-1-01853	
Participating Program Official Description: PROFESSOR; RESEARCH SCHOLAR; SHORT-TERM SCHOLAR; SPECIALIST; STUDENT ASSOCIATE; STUDENT BACHELORS; STUDENT DOCTORATE; STUDENT MASTERS; STUDENT NON-DEGREE							
Purpose of this form: Amend previous form: program date(s) amended							
3. Form Covers Period: From (mm-dd-yyyy): 07-02-2003 To (mm-dd-yyyy): 07-01-2006				4. Exchange Visitor Category: RESEARCH SCHOLAR			
				Subject/Field Code: 51.0811 Subject/Field Code Description: Pathology/Pathologist Assistant (NEW)			
5. During the period covered by this form, the total estimated financial support(in U.S. \$) is to be provided to the exchange visitor by: Current Program Sponsor funds : \$[REDACTED] Total : \$[REDACTED]							

J-1

What is the DS-2019?

6. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE / INS USE OR CERTIFICATION BY RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: A NOTIFICATION COPY OF THIS FORM HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (INCLUDE DATE). ADMITTED AUG 09 2003 CLASS UNIT		7. Linda Melville Responsible Officer Name of Official Preparing Form International Programs & Studies 2111 Mesa Vista Hall Albuquerque, NM 88131 Signature of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer <i>[Signature]</i>		Title 505-277-4032 Telephone Number 06-25-2003 Date (mm-dd-yyyy)	
8. Statement of Responsible Officer for Releasing Sponsor (FOR TRANSFER OF PROGRAM) Effective date (mm-dd-yyyy): _____, Transfer of this exchange visitor from program number _____ sponsored by _____ to the program specified in item 2 is necessary or highly desirable and is in conformity with the objectives of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended. Signature of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer _____ Date (mm-dd-yyyy) of Signature _____					
PRELIMINARY ENDORSEMENT OF CONSULAR OR IMMIGRATION OFFICER REGARDING SECTION 212(e) OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT AND PL 94-484, AS AMENDED (see item 1(a) of page 2). The Exchange Visitor in the above program: 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Not subject to the two-year residence requirement. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Subject to two-year residence requirement based on: A. <input type="checkbox"/> Government financing and/or B. <input type="checkbox"/> The Exchange Visitor Skills List and/or C. <input type="checkbox"/> PL 94-484 as amended Name _____ Title _____ Signature of Consular or Immigration Officer _____ Date (mm-dd-yyyy) _____			TRAVEL VALIDATION BY RESPONSIBLE OFFICER (Maximum validation period is one year*) *EXCEPT: Maximum validation period is up to six months for Short-term Scholars and four months for Camp Counselors and Summer Travel/Work. (1) Exchange Visitor is in good standing at the present time Date (mm-dd-yyyy) _____ Signature of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer _____ (2) Exchange Visitor is in good standing at the present time Date (mm-dd-yyyy) _____ Signature of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer _____		
THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE FINAL DETERMINATION REGARDING 212 (e).					
EXCHANGE VISITOR CERTIFICATION: I have read and agree with the statement on item 2 on page 2 of this document. Signature of Applicant _____ Place _____ Date (mm-dd-yyyy) 07-01-2003					

Filling out the DS-2019 Request Form

Remember to:

- Provide a copy of the biographical page of the scholar's passport. If the scholar will be accompanied by dependents we will also need copies of their passports.
- Attach proof of financial support if the scholar will not be supported by UNM administered funds.

What is SEVIS?

SEVIS is the Student Exchange Visitor Information System, a web-based system for monitoring and tracking international students and scholars.

In order to continue inviting international students and scholars to UNM, GEO is required to follow the regulations and report certain information to DHS.

GEO is required to report the following information:

- ✓ Program Start
- ✓ Scholar Arrival
- ✓ Change of Address
- ✓ Change in Site of Activity
- ✓ Absence outside of the U.S. for extended time
- ✓ Ending program prior to the end date on the DS-2019
- ✓ Transfer to another institution
- ✓ Extension of DS-2019 (“Program Extension”)
- ✓ Failure to maintain legal exchange visitor status
- ✓ Failure to report to UNM after arrival to U.S.

SEVIS: Important Notification Requirements for Departments

- GEO must notify the Department of State in writing when the exchange visitor has withdrawn from or completed a program thirty (30) or more days prior to the ending date on his or her Form DS-2019. See, 22 C.F.R. § 62.13(c)(1).
- GEO must validate a scholar's program within 30 days of the program start date as recorded on his or her form DS-2019. That means, if a scholar experiences a delay obtaining a visa abroad, the department must notify GEO to see if it will be necessary to defer the program start date on the DS-2019.
- Any plans for the scholar to leave the U.S. for more than 60 days to continue his or her program activities abroad, must be reported to and authorized by GEO in ADVANCE.
- Any adverse situation that the scholar experiences: loss of passport, arrest, victim of a crime, accident, etc.

Banner Data Entry

- After the department submits a DS-2019 Request Form to GEO
- GEO will email the department with instructions on contacting the appropriate Employment Unit to assign a Banner role and enter demographic and other information into Banner.

Main Campus Faculty Contracts

North Campus Faculty Contracts

This should be done as soon as possible after receiving the email from GEO. Note that the employment unit may not be able to enter paid scholars until their arrival at UNM.

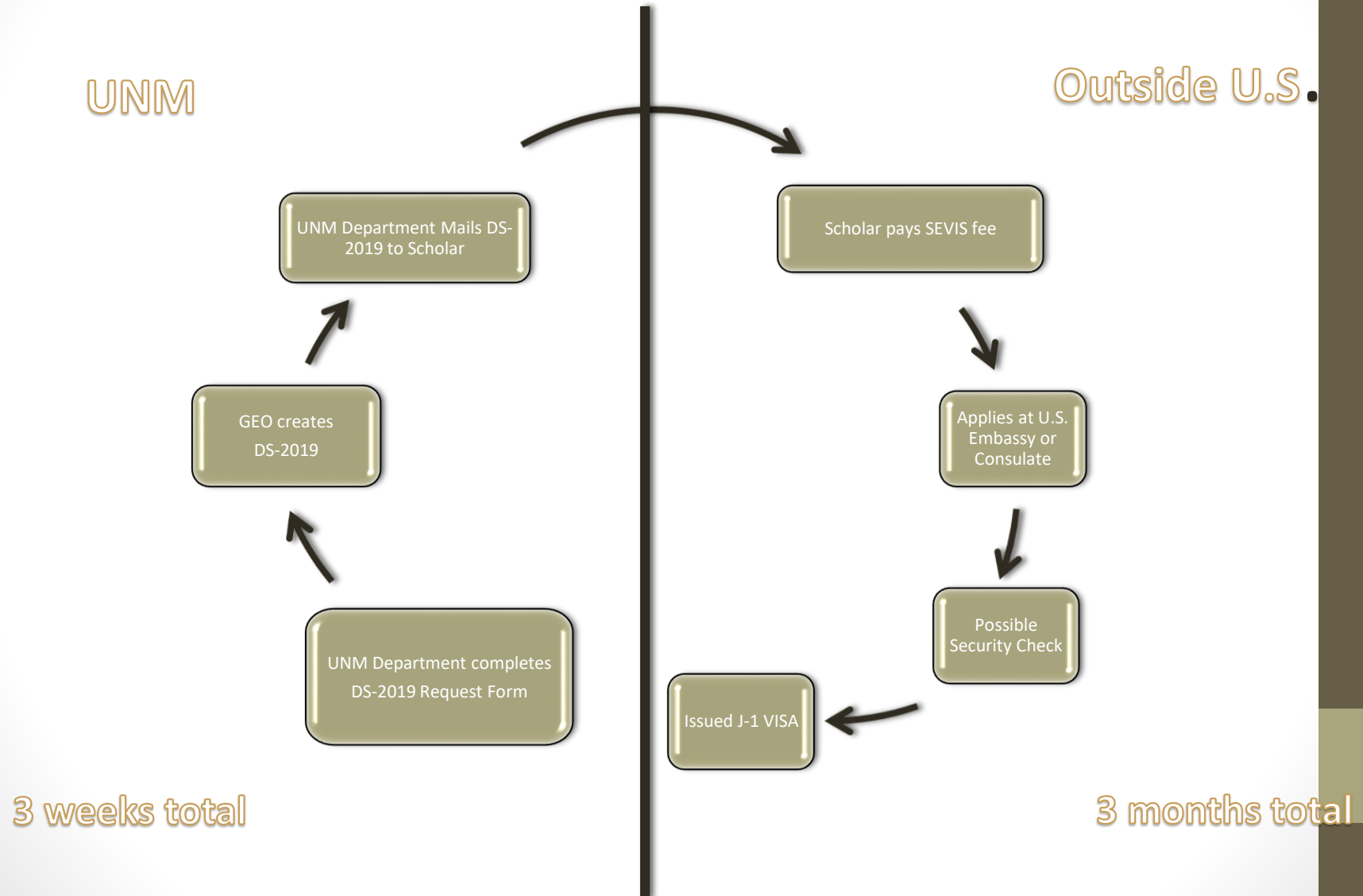
Types of Scholar Roles in Banner

- Paid scholars are “Employees” in Banner and receive all privileges of UNM employees.
- Unpaid Scholars with Letters of Academic Title (LAT) are listed as “Affiliates” with most campus privileges.
- Unpaid scholars without a LAT (visiting colleagues) are listed as an “Affiliate” with limited campus privileges.



AFTER THE SCHOLAR RECEIVES THE DS-2019

Visa Application Process



Visa Application

- Individuals entering as J-1 Scholars must have a valid J-1 entry visa (except Canadians).
- The entry visa is a sticker with photograph on a page of the scholar's passport that permits entry to the US.

The scholar must present a SEVIS fee receipt and a valid SEVIS form DS-2019 to the US Consular officer to obtain the entry visa.

Visa Application

Documents to Bring to the Visa Interview:

- Form DS-2019
- Passport
- Photos
- Visa Application Fee or Receipt
- SEVIS Fee Receipt
- Supporting documents regarding the program

Scholars should contact the embassy or consulate to verify additional documentation which may be required.

SEVIS Fee I-901

- Currently \$220.
- Scholars have to know the SEVIS number located on the DS-2019 before the fee can be paid (not supposed to scan DS-2019 to the scholar.)
- Scholars must have proof of payment of I-901 Receipt, prior to J-1 Visa Appointment at US Consulate.
- Scholars are given visa application instructions in GEO Welcome Letter.
- A few UNM departments will pay this fee for the scholar.

Visa Application Process

- Bear in mind that background checks, particularly for scholars from certain countries, can cause visa delays.
- Please contact GEO if the scholar's program start date needs to be deferred due to visa processing delays.



At the Port of Entry: Customs & Border Protection

- The Scholar presents their passport, visa, and DS-2019 (often in a sealed envelope) to the CBP official.
- The official grants entry to the U.S. in a specific status. If the scholar does not enter in the correct status s/he cannot begin paid employment and must seek a correction.
- Status appears on an electronic entry record called an I-94 after their arrival in the US.
- Immigration regulations prohibit exchange visitors and dependents from arriving more than 30 days prior to their program start date.

Special Issues for J-1 Scholars: Out of Country Record

“Out of Country Functionality” allows a J-1 Research Scholar or Professor to participate in his/her exchange program for a particular period of time outside of the U.S., provided the program activities will be continued in the out of country location.

The J-1 Scholar must seek an “Out of Country” Authorization from GEO when s/he will be out of the country for 60 days but less than one year in agreement with the department to pursue the original objectives of the exchange program.

Special Issues for J-1 Scholars: Non-UNM Paid Engagements

Scholars may participate in occasional lectures or short-term consultations outside of UNM but these activities must:

- ✓ Be directly related to the objectives of the J-1 Scholar's Program
- ✓ Be incidental to the scholar's primary program activities
- ✓ Not delay the completion date of the EV's program
- ✓ The scholar must obtain WRITTEN authorization from the international advisor in ADVANCE of the activity.
- ✓ The scholar must present GEO with a letter from the offering institution with the conditions of the offer.
- ✓ The scholar must present GEO with a letter from the department head or direct supervisor recommending such activity and explaining how it would enhance the Scholar's program.

Responsibilities of J-1 Scholars

Scholars Must ALWAYS:

- Conduct research/teaching only at the institution at which they are authorized to work by the Department of State (DOS)
- Provide GEO and USCIS with an updated local address within 10 days of any change
- Maintain a valid DS-2019 form, apply for an extension of stay at least one month before the document expires; see an advisor for a new DS-2019 if any information changes
- Inform GEO if any of the following occur: a change in site of activity, absence from the U.S. for more than 60 days, leave program prior to the end date on the DS-2019.
- Maintain a valid passport throughout their stay in the US
- Complete necessary "immigration transfer procedures" when changing from one institution to another in the US (the scholar must meet with the international advisor before s/he can transfer to a new institution, transfer must be in the same category and field)

Scholars have a 30 day “grace period” following the end of their program. During that time they have some or all of the following options available:

- a. Leave the US
- b. Get a new DS-2019 form for a new institution and complete transfer procedures
- c. Apply for a change to another immigration status with the USCIS

Responsibilities of J-1 Scholars (cont..)

Scholars Must NEVER:

- WORK for an institution other than the one listed on their DS-2019 *unless* they have received the required written authorization from the international advisor in advance (consult the international advisor for details)
- Terminate their program early or take a leave of absence without informing GEO; scholars who terminate their program before the end date on their DS-2019 are supposed to leave immediately

Responsibilities of J-1 Scholars (Cont..)

Additional Legal Requirements:

- J1 scholars are required by section 514.12 of the exchange visitor regulations to have health insurance coverage for themselves and all J-2 dependents that includes minimum coverage of \$100,000 per accident/illness, \$25,000 for repatriation of remains and \$50,000 for medical evacuation. They need to check their insurance coverage carefully to be sure it meets these requirements
- All international scholars are required to complete and submit US tax forms to the federal government every year regardless of whether or not they earned any money in the US (tax workshops and advising are available through our VITA)

Key Departmental Responsibilities

- Scheduling Scholar for mandatory scholar orientation
- Reporting changes in program dates for incoming scholars (GEO must validate scholar's program within 30 days of scholar's program start date or amend start date in SEVIS)
- Reporting scholars who leave their program (includes program completion, termination or withdrawal)
- Maintaining communication between GEO, the scholar, and the department
- Filing timely extensions with GEO for scholars who need their DS-2019 extended
- Build sufficient time (at least three months) for incoming scholars to arrive at UNM

J-1 SCHOLAR ORIENTATIONS

WEDNESDAYS 10:00 AM
GEO 2120 MESA VISTA HALL

*CALL GEO OR EMAIL IADVISOR IN ADVANCE TO
SCHEDULE SCHOLAR FOR ORIENTATION AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE FOLLOWING ARRIVAL*

J-1 Scholar Orientation

During J-1 Scholar Orientation GEO reviews the following in detail:

- Responsibilities for maintaining legal J-1 status
- Steps for getting settled at UNM and in Albuquerque (housing, transportation, bank accounts, Lobo Card, UNM email, etc.)
- Applying for a Social Security Number
- Applying for a NM Driver's License/State ID
- Health Insurance Options
- Filling out hiring documents

GEO must also make copies of important immigration documents. Please remind scholars to bring these documents with them to orientation.

Activities and Events for Scholars

- International Social Hour
- International Couples & Scholars Organization (ICASO)
- Workshops



Checklist for J-1 Scholar Coordinators - **Arrival**

- ☐ Submit DS-2019 request form and Departmental Responsibilities Letter to GEO
- ☐ Submit the appropriate forms to Faculty Contracts to get the SSN or 000# for Banner entry
- ☐ Report any changes in scholar's program start date to GEO
- ☐ Schedule scholar for mandatory GEO orientation for J-1 Scholars

Checklist for J-1 Scholar Coordinators - Ongoing

- ☐ Report changes in scholar's program or address to GEO within 10 days
- ☐ Report when scholar leaves program/country (includes program completion, withdrawal, termination, intent to transfer, out of country record)
- ☐ Submit paperwork for DS-2019 extension at least one month before current DS-2019 document expires
- ☐ Report any changes in designation of J-1 scholar coordinator to GEO

Thank you for all of your work to support our International Scholars!



Please do not hesitate to contact us!

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