**ABE Overview of Inviting International Visiting Scholars**

Approval is **REQUIRED** by UF/IFAS International Support Team (IIST) and UF’s Export Control and Research Integrity (RISC) Office to invite **ANY** International Visiting Scholar (ex: Short-Term, Research, Teaching, Fulbright).

* Faculty member needs to submit the prospected visiting scholars CV and complete the ABE Visiting Scholar JotFrom (this is on the Resources page of the ABE website). This will route to Staff who handles inviting visiting scholars.
* Staff will submit the to RISC for screening.
* RISC will reach out to the staff member who submitted the request, letting them know if the faculty member can proceed with inviting the prospected visitor or not.
	+ **For Fulbright Scholars**: If RISC gives the approval to proceed, the faculty member can provide the invitation letter or letter of agreement to host the scholar. ABE does not handle anything past this on FulBright scholars.
	+ **For ABE Invited Scholars:**  ABE staff member will draft the letter of invitation based on the information provided in the Visiting Scholar Invitation Form and send out to be reviewed and signed by the Hosting Faculty, Department Chair, and the Visiting Scholar.
* If scholar accepts the invitation ABE staff will reach out to the scholar to get the additional documents required for the packet. Once all documents have been provided ABE staff will submit the DS-2019 request packet using the UFIC web portal.
* UFIC will review the packet to ensure all documents required have been submitted.
	+ If all the documents are submitted UFIC will process the request and mail out the Form DS-2019 to the scholar.
* Once the scholar receives the Form DS-2019 the scholar will then be able to make a Visa appointment.

**Important information:**

* An international visiting scholar has 30 days from their program start date to check in with the University’s International Center and complete a mandatory orientation. Failure to complete this process by the deadline, will automatically cancel the scholars J-program and this can lead to immigration issues. If the scholar still wishes to attend the program an amendment request to change the program start date can be submitted to avoid the program from being closed. If the program closes the scholar would be responsible for paying all SERVIS and EVS fees again.
* ***12-Month Repeat Participation Bar (12-Month Bar)***​
	+ This affects an exchange visitor’s eligibility for Research Scholar and Professor J-1 categories.  It applies to visitors in **all** J-1 categories except Short-Term Scholar.
	+ Individuals in a U.S. exchange visitor program for **more than six (6) months** cannot return to the U.S. using the Research Scholar or Professor J-1 categories for a 12-month period following the official program end date noted on their Form DS-2019.  This bar applies to both principal J-1 exchange visitors and any J-2 dependents and **cannot be waived**.
* ***24-Month Repeat Participation Bar (24-Month Bar)***
	+ This affects an exchange visitor’s eligibility for Research Scholar and Professor J-1 categories.  It applies to exchange visitors in Research Scholar and Professor J-1 categories, regardless of the length of time spent in these categories.
	+ Individuals in an U.S. exchange visitor program in **either** Research Scholar or Professor J-1 categories cannot return to the U.S. using either category for a 24-month period following the official program end date noted on their Form DS-2019.  This bar applies to both principal J-1 exchange visitors and any J-2 dependents and **cannot be waived**.

**These restrictions do not prevent returning to the U.S. in other visa categories, such as B-1 (business), B-2 (tourist), F, etc., or the J-1 categories of Student/Non-Degree Student, Student Intern, or Short-Term Scholar.**

* ***212(e) 2-Year Home Residency Requirement [“212(e) Rule”]***
	+ The 212(e) is separate and different from the 12- and 24-month bars and may apply to exchange visitors in any J-1 category. If the J-1 exchange visitor is subject to the rule, any of related J-2 dependents are also subject to the rule. It is also known as the foreign residence requirement under U.S. law, or the Immigration and Nationality Act, Section 212(e).
	+ This rule affects an exchange visitor’s eligibility for other types of U.S. visas during and after their J-1 program. It applies to some, but not all, exchange visitors depending on a [variety of factors](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/exchange/waiver-of-the-exchange-visitor/eligibility.html).
	+ If an exchange visitor is unable to return to their home country/country of residence, or wishes to waive the requirement, they must submit a waiver and obtain approval from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

**Financial Responsibility:**

|  |
| --- |
| **Minimum funding requirements for J exchange visitors are:** |
| Exchange Visitor | $1,500/month |
| Spouse | $1,000/month |
| Child | $500/month (per child) |

The chart below provides minimum funding requirements for exchange visitors and their dependents for monthly and annual periods.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Exchange Visitor (EV)** |  | **EV** | **EV & Spouse** | **EV, Spouse & 1 Child** | **EV, Spouse & 2 Children** | **EV &1 Child** | **EV & 2 Children** |
| Per Month |  | $1,500 | $2,500 | $3,000 | $3,500 | $2,000 | $2,500 |
| Per Year |  | $18,000 | $30,000 | $36,000 | $42,000 | $24,000 | $30,000 |

**Processing Information**

EVS will review the DS-2019 Request after both UF host department and exchange visitor submit their portions. If all required forms and documents are correct and complete, EVS will process the Form DS-2019, and Form DS-7002 (required for Student Interns only), within the below timeframes.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **J-1 Request Type** | **Average Processing Time** |
| Professor/Research Scholar/ Short-Term Scholar | 7 business days |
| Student Intern | 9 business days |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **J-1 Faculty, Research Scholars & Short-Term Scholars** | **J-1 Student Interns** |
| * The exchange visitor must hold at least an undergraduate (bachelors) degree, or equivalent education evaluated by an accredited credential evaluation services (e.g., WES, NACES, ECE).
* The exchange visitor must have sufficient English proficiency to perform their job or complete their academic program; to navigate daily life in the United States; to read and comprehend program materials; to understand fully their responsibilities, rights, and protections; and to know how to obtain assistance, if necessary.
* The exchange visitor must have, at minimum, the established financial support to live an adequate lifestyle in the location of the proposed worksite. This support may come from UF or other sources.
* The exchange visitor must maintain appropriate health insurance coverage as required by federal regulations throughout the entire duration of the J program.
* The exchange visitor’s appointment to the position is temporary. Tenure-accruing positions are prohibited in the J program.
* The exchange visitor’s proposed activity must further exchange, mutual enrichment, and linkages between UF and research and educational institutions of other countries.
 | * The intern must be currently enrolled in a degree-seeking program at their home university.
* The J-1 Student Intern Program is not used as basis for employment and must be an integral part of the intern's degree requirements
* The proposed activity must further interchange, mutual enrichment, and linkages between UF and research and educational institutions of other countries
* The exchange visitor must have, at a minimum, the established financial support, either from UF or other sources, to live an adequate lifestyle in the location of the proposed worksite
* The exchange visitor must maintain the insurance coverage that is required by federal regulations throughout the duration of the applicable J program
 |