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## J-1 INFORMATION for VISITING SCHOLAR/STUDENT

### UTC Office of International Scholar Services

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga  
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**The Exchange Visitor (J) non-immigrant visa category** is for individuals approved to participate in work- and study-based exchange visitor programs. Participants are integral to the success of the program. The J-1 Visa provides countless opportunities for international candidates looking to travel and gain experience in the United States. The multifaceted programs enable foreign nationals to come to the U.S. to teach, study, conduct research, demonstrate special skills or receive on the job training for periods ranging from a few weeks to several years. (Reference: <http://j1visa.state.gov/programs/> )

#### J-1 Professor and J-1 Research Scholars must:

(<http://j1visa.state.gov/programs/professor-and-research-scholar> )

- Not be a candidate for a tenure-track position;
- Not have participated in and completed a professor or research scholar program within the last 24 months preceding the beginning date of their new program's commencement;
- Not have participated in a J-Visa program for all or part of the 12-month period immediately preceding the start date of a professor or research scholar program unless they meet one of the following exceptions:
  - The participant is currently in a professor or research scholar program and is transferring to another institution in the United States to continue their current J-1 program;
  - The participant's prior physical presence in the U.S. on a J-visa program was less than six months in duration; and
  - The prior participation was as a short-term scholar.

#### College/University Students must:

(<http://j1visa.state.gov/programs/college-and-university-student> )

- Be financed directly or indirectly by the U.S. government, the government of their home country, an international organization of which the United States is a member by treaty or statute, or supported substantially by funding from any source other than personal or family funds;
- Be carried out according to an agreement between the U.S. government and a foreign government, or according to a written agreement between American and foreign educational institutions, an American educational institution and a foreign government or a state or local government in the United States and a foreign government; or Student is participating in a student internship program that will fulfill the educational objectives of the student's degree program in his or her home country; or
- Pursue a non-degree program must be enrolled full-time in a prescribed course of study. The maximum duration of a non-degree program is 24 months inclusive of academic training

## **Responsibilities, Requirements and Regulations**

1. **College/Department Responsibilities:** College/Departments are expected to provide **workspace, library and computer access, a UTC ID card, and cross-cultural interaction** between the J-1 Scholar and the department's faculty and staff. UTC Office of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) relies on departments to refer any concerns about immigration, orientation to the campus & community, insurance, or other matters to ISSS. Departments are also required to:
  - 1) Remind the J-1 Scholar to make an appointment with ISSS upon arrival at UTC. (All J-1 Scholars must schedule an orientation session with ISSS within ten days of arrival at UTC)
  - 2) Notify ISSS when the J-1 Scholar completes his/her program at UTC;
  - 3) Notify UTC ISSS if the J-1 Scholar will not arrive within 30 days of the begin date
2. **Academic Credentials:** The department must ensure that the J-1 Scholar/Student has the appropriate academic credentials to perform the proposed activity. Some programs may require the transcript translation and evaluation by the official evaluator to meet the accreditation standards and requirements. You should meet with your department chair and Dean to discuss if the visiting scholar may need to submit extra academic credentials.
3. **English Proficiency:** College/Departments must determine that the scholar has English Proficiency sufficient to perform the academic activity & function on a day-to-day basis. English proficiency for J-1 Scholars from countries where English is not the official language must be evaluated by the Department before submitting the J-1 Scholar Request Form. Departments must submit scores from a recognized English Language test, certification from an academic institution or English Language school, or evidence of an in-person or teleconference interview.
4. **DS2019 Processing Time:** Please submit J1 Scholar form and all attachments at least **120 days** before the intended start date of the program. This allows time for the Certificate of Eligibility, Form DS-2019, to be issued and forwarded to the prospective scholar who must then apply for an entry visa at a US embassy.
5. **J1 Visitor Categories:** The attached form is used to determine but UTC International Office for J-1 Scholars who are classified as a) Research Scholars; b) Professors; c) Short-term Scholars, d) Specialists or f) Student. The J-1 program is for temporary visits to the US for the purpose of studying, teaching, instructing or lecturing, observing, conducting research, consulting, or demonstrating special skills.
6. **Home Residency Requirements:** The 12 months or two-year home residency requirement (212(e) as it is referenced in the immigration regulations) means that those who come the U.S. in J-1 status cannot become permanent residents in the U.S., change status in the U.S., or get work or family-

based visa statuses such as H, L or K until they return to their country of last permanent residence for at least 12 months or two years cumulatively.

- 1) 12 Month Bar: Anyone who has been in the US in any J category for more than six months may be barred from re-entering the US as a J-1 Research Scholar or Professor for 12 months following the completion of his/her program or stay. This regulation does not apply to Short-term Scholars. This requirement may be added at a US embassy after the visa appointment.
- 2) 24 Month Bar: Anyone who has been in the US as a J-1 Research Scholar or Professor for any length of time and whose SEVIS record is no longer active may be barred from re-entering the US as a J-1 Research Scholar or Professor for 24 months following the completion of his/her program or stay. This requirement may be added at a US embassy after the visa appointment.

7. **Minimum Required Financial Support:** Sufficient financial support is required for a J-1 Scholar. J-2 dependents who accompany the J-1 require additional funding. The minimum amounts required are:

- J1 scholar           \$1500 per month = \$18000 per year
- J2 spouse           \$600 per month = \$7200 per year
- J2 child             \$500 per month = \$ 6000 per year

8. **Evidence of Financial Support:** If the J-1 Scholar's support is from a source other than UTC, evidence of funding must be included with this request. If supported by personal funds, a bank statement in US\$ must be provided. If supported by government or international funds, an official statement translated into English with funds converted to US\$ must be provided. If a J-1 scholar is required to take a class, the evidence of financial support must cover their tuition. All international students and scholars are required to pay out-of-state tuition at UTC. You can find current tuition rate at <http://www.utc.edu/bursar/fee-schedule.php>.

9. **Insurance Requirement:** Health and accident insurance coverage are mandatory for all J-1 Scholars and their J-2 dependents while they are in the US. The J Scholar Insurance Form must be completed before DS-2019 issuance. Please fill out the attached form.

10. **C.V./Resume:** A C.V. or resume (in English) must be attached to the J-1 Request Form.

11. **Passport:** Attach a legible copy of the ID page(s) of the passport for the J-1 Scholar and all dependents.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

- For more detailed information for J1 visitor program, please visit U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs website at <http://j1visa.state.gov/basics/>
- It is visitors' responsibilities to understand the detailed conditions of J1 visitor programs. Requirements for home country residency, IRS tax, changing the status, future visa applications, and others can be varied depending on the agreement between the United States and visitors' home country. UTC International Office will not be responsible for future immigration status.