Exchange Visitor Orientation

University of Georgia Office of International Education
Welcome to UGA

The following information will be reviewed:

• Immigration Basics
• Initial Check-In Procedures
• Maintaining Exchange Visitor Immigration Status
• Health Insurance
• Transferring & Extending Status
• Home Residency and Repeat Participation Bars
• Family and Dependents
• Life in the United States
• UGA Resources and Important Information
Immigration Basics
What is an Exchange Visitor?

• A foreign national temporarily in the United States under the U.S. Department of State’s J-1 visa status

• Purpose: Educational and Cultural Exchange- Not employment, although incidental employment may be approved

• Expectation: Return to home country at end of program
J-1 Exchange Visitor Categories at UGA

- Student
- Student-Intern
- Professor
- Specialist
- Short-Term Scholar
- Research Scholar

Each category has its own rules and regulations. Changes of category require approval from the U.S. Department of State and are rarely granted.
Common Acronyms

The United States government uses acronyms for most agencies or organizations. Below are those important to your immigration status:

• CBP: Customs and Border Protection
• DHS: Department of Homeland Security
• DOS: Department of State
• EV: Exchange Visitor (J-1)
• ICE: Immigration and Customs Enforcement
• SEVIS: Student and Exchange Visitor Information System
• USCIS: United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
SEVIS

• Student and Exchange Visitor Information System

• Internet based system streamlining reporting and record keeping within the Department of Homeland Security & Department of State for J visa holders

• J-1 Exchange Visitors and J-2 family members have records in SEVIS

• The SEVIS ID number is assigned to all J visitors and appears on the form DS-2019
Certificate of Eligibility - DS-2019

• Generated by program sponsor (usually UGA) in SEVIS

• Shows acceptance to participate in an exchange visitor program designated by the U.S. Department of State

• Determines what date you are permitted to enter the United States and what date you should depart

• DS-2019 should remain valid at all times
DS-2019- Details

• **A:** SEVIS ID: N001......

• **B:** Program Dates: Visitors may enter the United States up to 30 days before the program begin date and must leave within 30 days following the end date.

• **C:** Travel Validations- Section must be signed by Immigration Advisor before traveling outside the United States
I-94: Admission Document

- Visit [cbp.gov/i94](http://cbp.gov/i94)

- Printed by visitor or dependent after each new entry to the United States

- The I-94 determines status:
  - “Class of Admission”: J-1 or J-2
  - “Admit Until Date”: D/S

- D/S = Duration of Status
  - If DS-2019 is valid and visitor is participating in Exchange Visitor program, the expiration date defaults to the expiration date on the DS-2019 form

Individuals can visit [www.cbp.gov/I94](http://www.cbp.gov/I94) to retrieve a copy of their electronic Form I-94.
United States Visa

• The visa stamp is placed in Exchange Visitor’s passport and permits the person to travel to the United States Port of Entry and request permission to enter the United States.

• A United States CBP officer will determine eligibility for entry

• Obtaining a visa does not guarantee entry into the United States

• The visa may expire while a visitor is present in the United States, but must be valid upon entry. The DS-2019 form should NEVER expire.

• The visa does not determine legal status in the United States

• The visa must be obtained outside the United States
Passport

• Official Identification while in the United States

• Name in passport should be the same on all immigration documents

• Should always have at least 6 months of validity into the future

• May renew in the United States at home country’s embassy or consulate
Initial Check-In Procedures
Checking-In with Immigration Services

• UGA Immigration Services requires all J Exchange Visitors to check-in upon arrival using the iStart system.

• If you have not checked in online with our office, please follow the instructions in the email you received or you may click here for complete instructions.

• Immigration advisors review submitted information and validate the SEVIS record. This notifies the U.S. Department of State of the visitor’s participation in the Exchange program.

• Information Reviewed by Advisor
  • Biographical Information- Address, Phone Number, Email Address
  • J-1 or J-2 Visa and Entry Stamp
  • Passport
  • DS-2019
  • DS-7002 for Student-Interns ONLY
  • I-94- Visit cbp.gov/i94
  • Proof of Health Insurance
  • Payment of the International Scholar Compliance Fee
Steps Upon Arriving at UGA

• Meet with your Academic Department
  • Your hosting department should be able to assist with the following information
• Obtain a UGA ID Card at the UGA Card Office- (Athens Campus Only)
• Obtain UGA MyID- myid.uga.edu
• Obtain Parking Permit, if parking a car on campus- parking.uga.edu
• Optional Items
  • Open Bank Account
  • Obtain a Social Security Number & Drivers’ Licenses
  • Sign Up for UGA Alert and Download the UGA Mobile App
  • If a Post Doc- Contact OPA@uga.edu to join the Post Doc Association
International Scholar Compliance Fee

• International Scholar Compliance Fee must be paid when you arrive on campus by an online Credit Card payment. This is an annual fee and must be paid each year of your continuing program. Visit http://tinyurl.com/iscfonline to make this payment
  
  • $122 if funded by UGA  
  • $204 if funded by another source other than UGA

• If you have any questions, please contact OIE at 706-542-2900 or immigration@uga.edu
Maintaining Exchange Visitor Immigration Status
Maintaining J-1 Exchange Visitor Status

• Comply with Health Insurance Requirements for Self and Dependents
• Check-In with Immigration Services on iStart.uga.edu
• Participate in Exchange Visitor Orientation
• Depart the United States within 30 days following program end date
• Engage ONLY in activities listed on DS-2019
Maintaining J-1 Exchange Visitor Status

• No Unauthorized Employment- Contact Immigration Advisor with employment questions

• Comply with all Local, State, and Federal Laws

• Keep Passport current for at least 6 months in the future

• Report Address changes within 10 days of the move date in iStart.uga.edu. View iStart Instructions.

• File timely and appropriate transfers & extensions of the program
J-1 Program Termination

• Exchange Visitors who fail to comply with the J-1 regulations are subject to termination from their J-1 program

• Reasons for termination may include:
  • Failure to conduct the activities listed on the DS-2019
  • Violation of the regulations of Exchange Visitor program and/or rules of the University of Georgia
  • Willful failure to maintain the mandatory health insurance requires for Exchange Visitors and their dependents
  • Engagement in unauthorized employment
Health Insurance Requirements
Health Insurance Requirements

• The U.S. Department of State requires all Exchange Visitors and their dependents to purchase and maintain medical health insurance coverage while in the United States--- including medical evacuation & repatriation insurance.

• It is mandatory and required of all Exchange Visitors and their dependents

• Submit documentation in iStart.uga.edu. View Instructions.
Health Insurance Coverage Details

• This coverage must include the following minimum amounts for J-1 and J-2 Visitors:

  • Medical benefits of at least $100,000 per accident or illness (In the United States, pregnancy and childbirth are treated as illnesses; therefore, health insurance must cover these expenses);

  • Repatriation of remains - $25,000;

  • Expenses associated with the medical evacuation of the exchange visitor to the home country - $50,000;

  • Deductible not to exceed $500 per accident or illness.
Health Insurance Coverage Details

• The Affordable Care Act (ACA) is a national health care law that took effect January 1, 2014. Under this law, every person who is a resident alien for tax purposes is required to have health insurance that meets “minimum essential health coverage” guidelines.

• J-1 Exchange Visitors in non-student categories (such as Research Scholar/Professor/Short Term Scholar) are exempt from the mandate to have health insurance that meets the ACA requirement if their federal tax status is “non-resident alien.” J-1 Exchange Visitors are usually non-resident aliens for the first two calendar years. This may vary based on time spent in the United States previously.

• Read more on the details of the ACA on our website. Click Here.
Transferring, Extending, & Traveling
Transfer of Exchange Program Sponsor

- Exchange Visitors may continue their program objective under the sponsorship of another authorized sponsor in the United States.
- Transfers are processed through Immigration Services at UGA.
- Please make an appointment with your Scholar Advisor to discuss, if applicable.
Extension of Stay

• Extensions are obtained for Exchange Visitors through the sponsoring department.

• Exchange Visitors with personal financial support may continue research up to 2 years, maximum.

• To extend beyond 2 years, the sponsoring department must obtain approval from the OVPR [http://research.uga.edu/visiting/procedures/](http://research.uga.edu/visiting/procedures/).

• Sponsoring departments should request extensions 30 days before the Exchange Visitor’s program end in [iStart.uga.edu](https://iStart.uga.edu).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Scholar/Professor</th>
<th>Short-Term Scholar</th>
<th>Specialist</th>
<th>Student-Intern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maximum of 5 years</td>
<td>Limited to 6 months</td>
<td>Limited to 1 year</td>
<td>Limited to 1 year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Travel

• For re-entry into the United States, Exchange Visitors need:
  • Valid DS-2019
  • Valid Travel Signature
  • Valid Passport
  • Valid J-1 or J-2 Visa, if applicable (Canadian’s are visa-exempt)

• Temporary Absences- contact OIE before leaving the United States for extended period of time

• Upon return to the United States, visit istart.uga.edu and upload the new I-94 record for yourself and dependents. View Instructions.
Occasional Lectures & Short Term Consultations

• UGA sponsored J-1 exchange visitors who are in the “professor,” “research scholar,” or “short-term scholar” categories may obtain permission to engage in and receive payment for “occasional lectures and short-term consultations” outside of their primary program at UGA.

• This activity must be pre-approved by Immigration Services and must support (and not interfere with) your original J program activity.
Home Residency and Repeat Participation Bars
Two-Year Home Country Residency

• Requires Exchange Visitors to return home for 2 years after completing program, or be granted a Department of State waiver BEFORE changing to H, L, or Immigrant status

• Subjectivity may be noted on the DS-2019 or U.S. Visa Stamp

• Waivers must be filed directly by the Exchange Visitor to the Department of State

• Exchange Visitors are subject if one or more of the following are true:
  • Program financed by U.S. government or Home government or international organization
  • Home country considered field of research or skill necessary to the development of home country- See Exchange Visitor Skills List
  • Exchange Visitor is receiving medical education or training in the United States
Repeat Participation Bars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12 Month Bar</th>
<th>24 Month Bar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professors and Research Scholars</td>
<td>Professors and Research Scholars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present in the United States for more than 6</td>
<td>Completes a full 5 year program or leaves before 5 year period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>months on J-1 program</td>
<td>is over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Must be absent from U.S. for 12 months or in</td>
<td>Must be absent from U.S. for 24 months or in another status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>another status before returning as Professor</td>
<td>before returning as Professor or Research Scholar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or Research Scholar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May return to the United States as a Short-Term</td>
<td>May return to the United States as a Short-Term Scholar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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J-2 Family Members
Family Members- Dependents

• Dependents are the spouses or children of J-1 Exchange Visitors on J-2 visas
• Each dependent is issued his or her own Form DS-2019, must maintain health insurance while SEVIS record is Active, and is also subject to the 2-Year Home Residency Requirement
• A J-2 child must switch to his or her own principle visa before turning 21 years old.

• Work:
  • Dependents are eligible to apply for work authorization upon arrival in the United States
  • For instructions on filing an application with the USCIS, visit uscis.gov/i-765

• School:
  • Dependents under the age of 18 are permitted to attend kindergarten through high school.
  • Adult Dependents are permitted to study full or part-time
Dependent Health Insurance

• Dependents are required to maintain health insurance coverage while the SEVIS record is Active
• If the dependent will be leaving the United States, in order to keep the SEVIS record Active, we must be notified of:
  • the departure date
  • the return date
  • the dependent must check-in within a week of the return date
  • documentation of health insurance is required while dependent is outside the United States
• If the dependent is leaving permanently, notify Immigration Services, immigration@uga.edu. SEVIS record will be completed
Life in the United States
Social Security

• The social security number (SSN) is used by the U.S. Government to identify wage earners for tax purposes

• UGA Exchange Visitors who are actively employed ON-CAMPUS are eligible to apply for an SSN

• To Apply for an SSN:
  • Valid Passport
  • DS-2019
  • Printed I-94
  • Letter of Invitation or Offer from Sponsoring Department
  • Social Security Application [https://www.ssa.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf](https://www.ssa.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf)

• Take above materials to your nearest SSN office. For the closest one near you, please visit [https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp](https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp).
Georgia Driver’s License

• Non-US citizens who establish residency in Georgia must obtain a Georgia Driver’s License within 30 days

• To apply for a Georgia Driver’s License, go to the Georgia Department of Driver’s Services: dds.ga.gov and also http://www.dds.ga.gov/drivers/DLdata.aspx?con=1747371440&ty=dl

• Please review requirements on our website and below:
  • http://issis.uga.edu/docs/Fac_Scholar_Section/GA_DDS_Info.pdf
  • DS-2019, Passport, Printed I-94
  • Proof of Residence
  • Social Security Card or Letter of Ineligibility from the Social Security Administration
  • Appointment for Written and Driving Test
Payroll & Taxes

• Scholars receiving funding or payment from UGA will need to contact the International Tax & Payroll Department

• Located: Business Services Building, Room 204

• Susan Caldwell, susanc@uga.edu

• busfin.uga.edu/payroll/itc
UGA Resources and Important Information
Departure Form

• Near the end of each Exchange Visitor program, OIE will email a request to all visitors to complete a Notice of Departure.

• This allows scholar advisors to update immigration records in a timely manner after scholars depart.

• If the exchange program needs to be extended, please have the sponsoring department request an extension through iStart.uga.edu.
Exchange Visitor Listserv

• The listserv is for Exchange Visitors and UGA departmental faculty and staff

• All exchange visitors are automatically signed up for this listserv

• IMPORTANT updated immigration information, community events, and announcements are sent out as needed

• Please email immigration@uga.edu, if messages are not received!
Cultural Resources

LGBT Resource Center
lgbtcenter.uga.edu

Disability Resource Center
drc.uga.edu

International Student Life
isl.uga.edu

UGA Student Affairs
studentaffairs.uga.edu

Multicultural Services & Programs
msp.uga.edu

Women’s Resources
women.uga.edu
Walk-In Hours for OIE

• You may make an appointment to meet with your Immigration Advisor or visit during walk-in hours.
• Scholar advisors are available for 15 minutes or less meetings for the times below.
• Appointments are not required for these times.

• Monday, 9:00am – 11:00am
• Tuesday, 2:00pm-4:00pm
• Wednesday, 2:00pm-4:00pm
• Thursday, 10:00am – 12:00pm
Immigration Services

Office of International Education
1324 South Lumpkin Street
Athens, GA 30602

Phone: (706) 542-2900
Fax: (706) 583-0123

Email: immigration@uga.edu
Website: international.uga.edu
Compliance Unit J-1 Exchange Visitor Program Office

Compliance Unit
Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Exchanges

U.S. Department of State
301 4th Street, S.W., Room 734
Washington, D.C. 20547
Fax 202 203-5087
http://j1visa.state.gov/
JVisas@State.gov
Please click the link below and complete the Exchange Visitor Orientation Knowledge Quiz.