Maintaining J1 Visa Status

As a J-1 Exchange Visitor it is important that you maintain your lawful J-1 status. Failure to do so can have serious long-term consequences. Below are steps you can take to ensure that you remain in status while in the U.S.:

- Check-in with the Immigration Services immediately upon your arrival into the United States

- Complete Mandatory Online Orientation

- Comply with all local, state, and federal laws

- Report address changes within 10 days of change

- The determining date of your status is the ending date in section 3 of your DS2019 form. DO NOT let the end date on your DS-2019 expire. If your appointment at the University of Georgia is extended, the department must contact Immigration Services prior to the current expiration date to have the DS-2019 form extended as well

- Do not accept unauthorized employment. The only activity you are permitted is the one described in section 4 of the DS-2019 form. You must consult an Immigration Services advisor before presenting any lectures or participating in any conferences during your stay

- If offered a comparable position at another college or university, discuss your plans with an Immigration Services advisor to make sure that the required transfer procedure can be accomplished

- Comply with the U.S. Department of State’s health insurance requirements for J-1 visa holders and their dependents. Failure to carry health insurance is considered to be a violation of the Exchange Visitor Program and will result in termination of your program and your J visa status.

- Keep your passport valid. Passports can be renewed by your embassy in Washington D.C. For information about your embassy

- Leave the U.S. within 30 days of the ending date of your exchange visitor program. If leaving the U.S. permanently, complete the departure for in istart.uga.edu.