



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES
COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES

J-1 Visa Status

A guide to the rules and regulations of the
J-1 Exchange Visitor Program

Colorado School of Mines

International Student and Scholar Services

1200 16th Street, Ste. E110

Golden, CO 80401

Congratulations! You have been awarded J-1 Exchange Visitor status at Colorado School of Mines. The J-1 Exchange Program was created by the US government “to increase mutual understanding between people of the USA and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange.” The US Department of State administers the J-1 Exchange Visitor program.

As a J-1 Exchange Visitor, you will perform your activities at Mines in J-1 visa status. J-1 visa status is governed by many rules and regulations. There are many terminologies and policies that all J-1 Exchange Visitors must understand. This document provides definitions and explanations of the J-1 Program and your J-1 Visa Status. As a J-1, you are strongly encouraged to read the information in this document.

The International Student and Scholar Services office works to provide you with the information required for your J-1 visa status. The office answers questions about immigration rules, extensions of your J-1 status, changes of status, and travel. Questions about any J-2 spouses or children also can be answered by the office.

Please don't hesitate to ask questions—the office wants your experience at Colorado School of Mines to be professionally and personally rewarding.

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Terminologies and Documents for a J-1 Exchange Visitor

SEVIS, DS-2019, J-1 Visa, I94, Passport

SEVIS

Before you apply for your J-1 visa (or a Change of Status to J-1), you are required to pay a SEVIS fee. SEVIS is the acronym for **Student and Exchange Visitor Information System**. This is a database that creates your Form DS-2019 and maintains the data about your J-1 program. Your J-1 start and end dates, site of your research or teaching, J-1 category, subject area, and financial information are all recorded in the SEVIS system. Additionally, your personal information, including your US address, email, and telephone number are entered into the SEVIS system. The system also tracks when you leave and re-enter the USA with your J-1 visa.

After you check-in with the International Office, your SEVIS status is changed from INITIAL to ACTIVE. It is very important for you to maintain an ACTIVE status in SEVIS during your time in the US. Continue reading below to make sure you do everything possible to keep your record ACTIVE. Failure to abide by the rules outlined in this document can result in the **TERMINATION** of your SEVIS record. **TERMINATION indicates you cannot continue with your research or teaching and you must leave the US immediately.**

IMPORTANT: It is important that any changes to your J-1 program or your personal information are recorded in the SEVIS system. **If you move to a new residential address during your time at School of Mines, you are required to notify the International Office within 10 days of the move.** Other changes, including changes in funding and changes in program dates, must also be reported to the International Office.

DS-2019

The DS-2019 is the most important document related to your J-1 visa status. The dates on your DS-2019 determine the dates you are legally allowed to perform your research or teaching duties at Colorado School of Mines. Do not perform any research or teaching duties before the start date or after the end date on your DS-2019. When the end date on your DS-2019 arrives, you can no longer perform research after that date; however, you are allowed a 30 day grace period for travelling around the US and preparing for your return home. When you depart the US after your DS-2019 ends, you will not be able to re-enter with that DS-2019 and the corresponding J-1 visa.

Please note the following important items on your DS-2019:

SEVIS number: This number, in the upper-right hand corner of your DS-2019, is the number that identifies you in the SEVIS system. It is a nine-digit number that looks like this: N00XXXXXXXX. This number is attached to this particular J-1 program.

Primary Site of Activity: This is the address where you can perform your research or duties. If your host department wishes to have you work at a different location than the location listed on your DS-2019, the International Office must be notified before activity at the other location begins. Your activities and/or employment are generally restricted to Colorado School of Mines, in the department noted on your Site of Activity, studying the field noted on your DS-2019.

Form Covers Period (From month/day/year To month/day/year): This section identifies the dates of your J-1 program. The end date is the last day you can perform your research or teaching duties at Mines. If your host department wishes for you to stay at Mines beyond the end date, the department must notify the International Office **at least 10 days** before the end date arrives. If your research or teaching activities at Mines **end more than 15 days before the end date** on your DS-2019, the International Office must be notified. You are required to perform your duties at Mines for the duration of the period noted on the DS-2019.

Exchange Visitor Category: There are several different categories of J-1 visa status. See below for the categories possible at School of Mines. Changes to your category cannot be made after you enter the US. Please identify your category and read about it below:

Research Scholar: This category allows you to perform research. The maximum possible duration is 60 months. All J-1 Research Scholars are subject to the **24 month Repeat Ban** (see page 6).

Professor: This category allows you to teach classes and perform research. The maximum possible duration is 60 months. All J-1 Professors are subject to the **24 month Repeat Ban** (see page 6).

Short Term Scholar: This category allows you to research or teach. It is limited to 6 months. An extension beyond 6 months is not an option. J-1 Short Term Scholars are not subject to the **24 month Repeat Ban** (see page 6).

Subject/Field Code Remarks: The remarks in this category explain the type of research or teaching you will do while at Mines. Any changes to the nature of your work must be pre-approved by the International Office. Changes in host departments or individual projects may be approved, but the change must be related to your initial field of study reported in Section 5.

2 year home residency requirement: The bottom of your DS-2019 is signed by an official from the US consulate or embassy that gave you your visa. The official also decided if you are subject to the [2 year home residency requirement](#). Please refer to your DS-2019 and J-1 visa to determine if you are subject to the requirement.

What is the 2 year home residency requirement? This requirement means the following: After you complete your J-1 program, you must live in your home country for 2 years before you are eligible for an H, L, or K visa status or a green card. If you received any type of government funding or if your field of study is on the Exchange Visitor's Skills List, you are deemed subject to the requirement. If you are subject, you are also ineligible to apply for a Change of Status to a different visa status while you are in the USA. There is a **waiver** possibility for the 2 year home residency requirement. **Please discuss the waiver with the International Office before you apply.** There are repercussions that can negatively affect you when applying for the waiver.

***If you are subject to the 2 year home residency requirement, your spouse or children who were issued a DS-2019 and entered the US as a J-2 are also subject to the requirement. If you apply for and are granted a waiver, the waiver also applies to your J-2 spouse and/or child.

J-1 Visa

The J-1 Visa, which you received at a US Embassy or Consulate, allows you to enter the USA in J-1 visa status. The J-1 visa is used for entry purposes only. If your J-1 visa expires before the end date of your DS-2019, it is not a problem; but, you cannot use the J-1 visa to enter the US after it expires. **As a J-1, the end date on your DS-2019 determines how long you can stay in the US.**

There are important dates and other information on your J-1 Visa. Please see below:



Class of Visa—J-1

Expiration Date: The visa cannot be used for entry into the US after this date. This **IS NOT** the day you have to leave the US.

HK4589690

Visa number, in red

Entries: This is the number of times you can use the visa for entry into the US. **Most visas have M**, which indicates you can use it for unlimited, multiple entries. The number 1 indicates the visa can be used for only 1 entry into the US; the number 2 indicates it can be used only 2 times for entry into the US.

Subject to 2 year home residency requirement OR Not-subject to 2 year home residency requirement. This statement refers to the 212e home residency requirement. “Subject” implies that you must live in your home country for 2 years, after your stay in the US as a J-1 ends, before you are eligible for an H, L, K, or green card status. Also, you are NOT eligible to apply for a change of status from J-1 to something else while in the US.

“Not subject” implies that you can begin an H, L, K, or Green Card status at any time after your J-1 ends. You are eligible to apply for a change of status to a different visa status in the US.

Electronic I94

The I94 is your official record of entry into the USA. The record is created every time you enter the USA. The record includes a specific number, your visa status entry into the US, and expiration date. The I94 can be retrieved at <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/i-94-instructions>. You are strongly suggested to go to that website as soon as possible after entering the US—use a mobile device at the airport. You should review the form online for any mistakes. A mistake can be corrected while you are at the airport, by Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Mistakes can only be corrected by CBP at the airport. Checking for mistakes as soon as possible after going through customs can save you a later trip to the airport.

See below for an I94:

9/7/2016

Most Recent I-94



Most Recent I-94

Admission (I-94) Record Number: 091 [REDACTED]

Most Recent Date of Entry: 2016 September 06

Class of Admission: J1

Admit Until Date: D/S

Details provided on the I-94 Information form:

Last/Surname: [REDACTED]

First (Given) Name: [REDACTED]

Birth Date: [REDACTED]

Passport Number: [REDACTED]

Country of Issuance: China

[Get Travel History](#)

► Effective April 26, 2013, DHS began automating the admission process. An alien lawfully admitted or paroled into the US is required to be in possession of a preprinted Form I-94. A record of admission printed from the CBP website constitutes a valid record of admission. See 8 CFR § 1.4(d).

► If an employer, local, state or federal agency requests admission information, present your admission (I-94) number along with any additional required documents requested by that employer or agency.

► Note: For security reasons, we recommend that you close your browser after you have finished retrieving your I-94 number.

OMB No. 1521-0111
Expiration Date: 08/31/2016

[For inquiries or questions regarding your I-94, please click here.](#)

[Accessibility](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

Class of Admission: Should be J-1

Admit until Date: Should be D/S, which indicates Duration of Status. D/S recognizes that the end date of your J-1 may change—it can be extended or it could be shortened.

Review your I94 for errors. If there is a mistake, notify Customs and Border Protection at the airport.

If you enter the USA via land from Mexico or Canada, you will receive a paper I94; however, your I94 should be available online 24 hours after entrance into the USA.

The I94 is required to start your position as a J-1, for your Social Security Number, and for getting a Colorado Driver's License. It provides proof that you are in the US as a J-1. Please retrieve and print your I94 as soon as possible after each entrance into the USA.

Passport

Your passport must remain valid during your time in the US as a J-1 Exchange Visitor. Do not allow your passport to expire. If your passport is within 6 months of expiration, you should make plans to get it renewed. Contact your country's embassy or consulate, here in the US, for information.

When you enter the US, immigration officials stamp your passport. Your stamp should indicate that you are J-1, with D/S (Duration of Status). See below for an example:



Other Important Rules for the J-1 Visa Status

24 month Ban on Repeat J-1 Participation

As mentioned earlier, there are different categories of the J-1 visa status. J-1 Research Scholars and J-1 Professors are subject to the **24 month Ban on Repeat J-1 Participation**. Because of this ban, upon ending a J-1 Research Scholar or Professor program, the J-1 is ineligible for a new J-1 Research Scholar or J-1 Professor status for 24 months. The J-1 can live in any country to satisfy the 24 month wait. A new J-1 Short-Term Scholar option is available at any time—there is not a waiting period. This rule applies regardless of how much time the J-1 Research Scholar or Professor program lasts.

Short-Term Scholars are not subject to the 24 month ban. If your current J-1 category is Short-Term Scholar, when you end your J-1 and leave the US, you can apply for a new J-1 Research Scholar or Professor visa at any time.

Example: Mr. Smith begins a J-1 Research Scholar program on 15 Oct, 2015. He ends his J-1 on 30 Sept 2016. He cannot begin a new J-1 Research Scholar or J-1 Professor program until Oct 1, 2018. He can get a new J-1 Short-Term Scholar visa at any time.

Example: Dr. York begins a new Short-Term Scholar program on June 1, 2015. She participates in research with her J-1 until Dec. 31, 2015. She leaves the US on Jan 1, 2016. She is eligible to enter the US as a J-1 Short-Term Scholar, J-1 Research Scholar, or J-1 Professor at any time.

Refer to the **Dependents** section (page 8) for an explanation on how the 24 month ban affects your J-2 dependents.

Employment as a J-1 Exchange Visitor

Employment of any kind, other than what you are expected to do at Mines, is prohibited during your time as a J-1. Reimbursement for conferences or honorariums for speaking engagements may be acceptable—but you are required to discuss those possibilities with the International Office, before the activities occur.

Accepting unauthorized payments or income during your J-1 program can result in the Termination of your SEVIS record.

Travel Outside of the USA

You may want to travel abroad during your time as a J-1 Exchange Visitor. All J-1s must get a **Travel Signature**, on their DS-2019s, before traveling outside of the US. When re-entering the US, the immigration official will review your DS-2019 for a travel signature. Delays at immigration will result if you fail to get a travel validation. Prior to travel, bring your DS-2019 to the International Office for a signature. A travel signature is valid for 1 year. So, it is not necessary to bring your DS-2019 to the office before each trip abroad.

Out of Country Absences

Travel outside of the US, lasting more than 30 days, must be approved by the International Office, prior to travel. An Extended Absence Form must be completed—this form allows you and your supervisor at Mines to explain why you will be gone more than 30 days. Please contact the International Office at least 7 days prior to your departure.

J-2 dependents should not remain in the US, without the presence of the J-1, for more than 30 days. If your travel will take you out of the US more than 30 days, your J-2 spouse or child should go with you.

Automatic Revalidation

Automatic revalidation allows J-1s with an active SEVIS record, valid admission stamp, valid I94, and valid DS-2019 (with travel signature) to re-enter the USA if their J-1 visa has expired. This is only allowed if the J-1 has traveled to Canada, Mexico, or an adjacent island (except Cuba) AND:

1. An application for a new visa is **NOT** submitted while out of the US.
2. The stay outside of the US is less than 30 days.
3. The J-1 does not travel to any other country (in addition to Canada, Mexico, or the adjacent isles). This includes Cuba.

J-1s holding a passport from Iran, Syria, or Sudan are ineligible for automatic revalidation.

You are strongly encouraged to discuss any plans for travel using Automatic Revalidation with the International Office before traveling.

Insurance

There are specific insurance requirements for all J-1s. All J-1s must maintain an adequate insurance policy, which meets all requirements, during their time as Mines. If your original program is extended, you must maintain insurance for the extension. All J-2s who are in the US with the J-1 must also have an insurance policy that meets the requirements. Read about the specific insurance requirements [at http://iss.mines.edu/Requirements-of-all-J-1-Exchange-Visitors](http://iss.mines.edu/Requirements-of-all-J-1-Exchange-Visitors).

Failure to maintain an adequate insurance policy during your J-1 can result in the TERMINATION of your SEVIS record and your J-1 visa status.

Medical care in the US is very expensive. Without insurance, you are responsible for all costs associated with a trip to the doctor's office or emergency room. If you buy insurance, however, the insurance policy will cover some of the costs.

Extending your Time in J-1 Visa Status

The end date on your DS-2019 signals the last day you can perform your duties as a J-1 Exchange Visitor as School of Mines. If you and your supervisor wish to extend your time as a J-1 at Mines, an extension request must be submitted to the International Office. You must do this at least 10 days before the end date on your DS-2019. Extensions require sufficient funding for the length of the extension, sufficient time remaining on your J-1 category, and that you are continuing to work in the same field of study as your original time period. You are ineligible for an extension if you have applied for the 212e Home Residency Waiver.

Study at Mines as a J-1 Exchange Visitor

As a J-1 Research Scholar, Short-Term Scholar, or Professor, you are eligible to take classes at Mines. You are not eligible to enroll in a degree-seeking program. You are limited to 6 credit hours per semester. Most likely, you will be responsible for the tuition and fees that are incurred.

If you wish to enroll as a full-time, degree seeking student at Mines, you cannot use your J-1 Research Scholar, Professor, or Short-Term Scholar visa. You will be required to obtain a status that is appropriate for degree-seeking students.

Transfer your J-1

You may be eligible to transfer your J-1 to another research institution. If you have been offered a research or teaching position at another institution that sponsors the J-1 visa status, you are eligible if:

1. Your J-1 Category will not change.
2. Your time as a J-1 has not exceeded the time allowed for your respective J-1 Category.
3. The new institution approves the transfer.
4. You have not applied for the waiver of the 2 year home residency requirement.

Please contact the International Office to discuss the transfer of your J-1.

J-2 Dependents

Your legal spouse and children are eligible for J-2 Exchange Visitor status. Perhaps your spouse and children are here in the US now. They were issued DS-2019s, obtained a J-2 visa, and used the documents to enter the USA as a J-2 Exchange Visitor. Or, perhaps you want to get a DS-2019 for your spouse or child so they can enter the US or change status to J-2. Contact the International Office about getting a DS-2019 for your spouse or child.

J-2s are subject to the same rules and policies as the J-1. J-1 Insurance requirements apply to J-2s. Funding requirements apply to J-2s. Spouses require \$600 per month. Children require \$300 per month. Read about our funding requirements on the ISSS [website](#).

If you leave the US during your time as a J-1 Exchange Visitor for more than 30 days, your J-2 dependents should go with you. If you have an absence of less than 30 days, the J-2 is allowed to stay in the US.

J-2s of all J-1s (regardless of category) who are subject to the 2 year home residency requirement are also subject; therefore, if you are subject to the 212e, your J-2 dependents are ineligible to apply for a Change of Status to a different visa status. If you apply for and are granted the waiver, the waiver also applies to your J-2 dependent.

J-2s who are in the US for less than 6 months are eligible to apply for a J-1 Research Scholar or Professor program. The J-2 must leave the US **before the 6 month presence in the US arrives** if he /she wants to begin a J-1 Research Scholar or J-1 Professor program. If a J-2 has presence in the US of more than 6 months, he/she is ineligible for a J-1 Research Scholar or Professor program for 12 months; the 12 months begin when the presence in the US as a J-2 ends.

Work Authorization for J-2 Dependents

All J-2s are eligible to apply for a Work Authorization Document. This document, which is issued by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), provides authorization to begin any type of employment. An application must be submitted to USCIS. There is a \$280 fee. Approval takes 2-3 months. Contact the International Office to discuss the application—the office can explain and review the required documents for the application.

J-2s are not eligible for a Social Security number unless they have been granted a Work Authorization Document.

Important Points of the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program

- Notify the International Office of changes in your living address within 10 days of moving.
- Notify the International Office of any data change on your DS-2019, before the change occurs. This includes changes in the end date, proposed changes to your research, changes in work location, and changes in funding.
- Pursuing any employment, other than that at Mines, is prohibited during your J-1 program.
- Maintain insurance requirements that adhere to the guidelines set by the Department of State.
- Notify the International Office of plans to travel abroad for more than 30 days.

****Failure to follow the guidelines listed above can result in a **TERMINATION** of your J-1. Termination revokes your J-1 status. If your J-1 has been terminated, you must leave the US immediately.

Remember, please inquire at the international office with questions about your J-1 Exchange Visitor program.