DOCUMENT:  J-1 International Interns Requirements - Spring 2015

Eligibility

The student intern is a foreign national enrolled in and pursuing a degree at an accredited post-secondary academic institution outside the United States. Internship programs are offered to graduate students involved in pre-doctoral research and undergraduate students who have a degree requirement for practical field experience. Internship programs provide unique opportunities for interns to gain practical experience on the process of conducting research in their academic field.

Support Documents Needed for Preparation of Immigration Document: DS-2019 and DS-7002

1. DS-2019 Request Form (submitted by the academic or other sponsor to the OISS)
2. DS-7002 Training/Internship Plan Form (submitted by the academic sponsor to the OISS)
3. Financial Certification (submitted by the student)
4. Passport Biographical Page (submitted by the student)
5. School Transcripts (submitted by the student)

Length of Program

The minimum length of an intern program is three weeks; the maximum length is 12 months. The internship program must be full-time with a minimum of 32 hours a week. International visitors are eligible for the J-1 intern category if he/she meets the following criteria:

Degree Eligibility

- Student must be currently enrolled in and pursuing a degree at a degree-or certificate-granting post-secondary academic institution outside the U.S., or
- Student must have graduated from such an institution no more than 12 months prior to the exchange visitor program beginning date, and
- Student must enter the U.S. to participate in a structured and guided work-based internship program in his/her specific academic field.

The degree information must be verified by one of the following:

- A copy of the student’s transcripts
- A letter from his/her academic institution
- A degree certificate showing the date the degree was awarded.
English Language Proficiency

English language proficiency may be verified by one of the following:

- An English language test (TOEFL, IELTS)
- The Host institution can sign the DS 2019 Data Collection Form to verify the level of English
- The Home institution may write a letter certifying the level of English.
- An interview conducted by the sponsor, either in person, by video-conference, or by web camera.

Area of Study

The program must be related to the intern’s degree program.

Site of Activity – Physical Location of Internship

Site of Activity is expected to be at the location of the sponsor and/or at another location where a contract exists between the sponsoring institution and the alternate site activity.

Internship Sponsor

- Must provide training and internship programs only in the occupational category or categories for which the requesting Department has been designated as sponsors
- Must provide continuous on-site supervision and mentoring of interns by experienced and knowledgeable staff in the field of the internship
- Ensure that interns obtain skills, knowledge, and competencies through structured and guided activities such as classroom training, seminars, rotation through several departments, on-the-job training, attendance at conferences, and similar learning activities, as appropriate in specific circumstances

Financial Support

The prospective student intern must be able to show financial support in the amount of $1,200.00 per month. Personal finances can be shown with a bank letter that is signed by a bank official on bank stationery or with a recent bank statement, or use the Office of International Students & Scholars Certificate of Financial Certification.

Repeat Participation

An intern may participate in additional internship programs as long as he/she maintains student status or begins a new internship program within 12 months of graduation.

Class/Degree Enrollment

Interns may not enroll in classes. If they gain admission to a degree program while at a US institution during the period of Internship, they will be expected to change to the sub-category J-1 degree student (undergraduate or graduate); or change to another appropriate visa type.

For a Student/Intern to join a degree program in the United States, it is recommended that they exit the US before commencing their studies and obtain a new J-1 visa in the degree student category. Student/Interns who have been made subject to the 2 year home country residency (or 212(E) rule) will not be approved for a category change until they have obtained a waiver of the 212(E).