

Change of Status:

Application process by which a non-immigrant changes their of visa category from one to another.

Department of State: (DOS)

Responsible for issuing visas, security clearances, verifying requirements for nonimmigrant student status, designates exchange visitor program sponsors, and creates and administers federal regulations and policies.

Designated School Official: (DSO)

The International Student Adviser authorized to issue and sign I-20s. The DSO is a regularly employed member of the school administration who ensures institutional and individual compliance with the law by learning, interpreting, and applying laws and government policies pertaining to F-1 students. Only a DSO may issue and sign the I-20 and create or update SEVIS records. (DSOs are in ISSS)

DS-2019:

White, two-page document issued by certified J-1 program sponsor to individuals for U.S. entry in J-1 status as exchange visitors. Separate DS-2019 issued for each dependent (J-2).

F-1 Visa Category:

F-1 students are non-immigrants pursuing a full course of study towards a specific educational or professional objective at an academic institution in the U.S., as designated by the United States Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Once the educational or professional objectives have been attained, the U.S. government expects the F-1 student to return to his or her residence abroad.

I-20:

White, three-page document issued by educational institution to individuals for U.S. entry in F-1 status for purpose of studying. Separate I-20 issued for each dependent (F-2).

I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record):

Small, white card issued prior to entering U.S. Immigration officer stamps I-94 to reflect date, place of entry, status granted, and length of stay permitted.

J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa Category:

An alien coming temporarily to the United States as a participant in a program approved by the Secretary of State for the purpose of teaching, instructing or lecturing, studying, observing, conducting research, consulting, demonstrating special skills, or receiving training.

Maintaining Status:

Abiding by immigration regulations as pertains to your visa category.

National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS):

The requirement of certain temporary foreign visitors of eighteen countries to register with immigration when entering and exiting the U.S.

Passport:

Document issued by home country for travel. Non-U.S. citizens must have valid passport to enter U.S., with a few exceptions.

Port of Entry (POE):

Place where you enter U.S. and are processed by an immigration official.

Professor:

An individual primarily teaching, lecturing, observing, or consulting at post-secondary accredited educational institutions, museums, libraries, or similar types of institutions.

Program Sponsor:

Are legal entities that applied for and received designation from the Department of State to conduct exchange visitor programs, are enrolled in SEVIS, and directly offer the "program" in which the EV participates or places the EV in an appropriate program. IIE, Fulbright, AMIDEAST, OSI students receive primary advice and services directly from the sponsors.

Reinstatement:

A student who has failed to maintain status may be reinstated to lawful status at the discretion of immigration.

Research Scholar:

An individual primarily conducting research, observing, or consulting in connection with a research project at research institutions.

Responsible Officer (RO) or Alternate Responsible Officer (ARO):

The International Student/Scholar Adviser authorized to issue and sign DS-2019s. The RO/ARO is a regularly employed member of the school administration who ensures institutional and individual compliance with the law by learning, interpreting, and applying laws and government policies pertaining to J-1 students and their dependents. Only an RO/ARO may issue and sign the DS-2019 and create or update SEVIS records. (ROs and AROs are in ISSS)

Short-Term Scholar:

A professor, research scholar, specialist, or a person with similar education or accomplishments coming to the U.S. on a short-term visit for the purpose of lecturing, observing, consulting, training, or demonstrating special skills at research institutions.

Student & Exchange Visitor Information System: (SEVIS)

Database established by Immigration to receive, store, and process student and dependent data submitted by schools

Specialist:

An individual who is an expert in a field of specialized knowledge or skill coming to the United States for observing, consulting, or demonstrating special skills.

Transfer:

"School transfer" is used by the United States Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) to describe the process by which an international student leaves one U.S. institution (before or after completion of studies) and begins attendance at another U.S. institution. School transfer, in this situation, does not refer to the transfer of academic credits or records between institutions.

Two Year Home Residency Requirement: 212(e)

J-1 exchange visitors subject to 212(e) must return to home country for an aggregate of two years upon completion of studies.

United States Citizenship & Immigration Services: (USCIS)

Responsible for most applications and adjudications for non-immigrants

United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement: (ICE)

Responsible for immigration investigations, detention, removal, intelligence, and SEVIS

United States Customs and Border Protection: (CBP)

Responsible for immigration inspections at U.S. ports of entry, for the Border Patrol, and for the Customs Service

Visa:

Stamped or affixed entry sticker in passport for U.S. entry in the immigration status specified on visa.

Volunteerism:

Advertised volunteer service position. Cannot receive any compensation.

Definitions from the NAFSA: Association of International Educators Adviser's Manual, 2003 release. www.nafsa.org