

J-1 Exchange Visitor Pre-Arrival Checklist



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

International Student and Scholar Services

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- Review the ISSS website** (iss.emory.edu) for information about the J-1/J-2 two-year home-country physical presence requirement, maintaining your status, housing, social security numbers, driver's licenses, banking, rights and laws, and more.
- Review your Form DS-2019** and make sure your personal and program information, and program dates are correct. If you won't arrive by your program start date, contact ISSS to update your DS-2019. If dependents are coming with you, each of them should have their own DS-2019.
- Make sure your passport is valid** for at least 6 months after your start date. If any dependents are coming with you, their passports should be valid for 6 months, too.
- Pay the SEVIS I-901 fee** at least 3 days before your visa interview. Print the receipt and keep a copy for your records. (Citizens of Canada and Bermuda don't need an entry visa, but they still have to pay the SEVIS fee before entering the U.S.) For more information, visit ice.gov/sevis/i901.
- Schedule an appointment at the nearest US embassy or consulate** to apply for your J-1 visa (except citizens of Canada or Bermuda). Visit travel.state.gov to find your nearest consulate and review the documents required for your interview. When you receive your visa sticker, please review it for accuracy.
- Make travel arrangements** after you get your visa. You can enter the U.S. up to 30 days before the start date on your DS-2019 form. If traveling by air, fly into Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. Let your department and ISSS know when you will get here. If you are sponsored by an organization other than Emory, let them know about your plans.
- Review the J-1 health insurance requirements** at emory.edu/iss. As an exchange visitor, you and any accompanying J-2 dependents are legally required to carry health insurance while you are in the U.S. We recommend the Emory/Aetna POS health insurance plans for university employees and either an ISO or ISP plan for non-employees. However, if you decide to enroll with an insurance provider other than ISO, ISP, or Emory/Aetna POS insurance plans, the insurance company must have a claims office that is physically located in the US. If it does not, we will require that you enroll in the ISO, ISP, or Emory/Aetna POS plans. Please note that traveler's insurance does not meet the minimum J-1 requirements for health insurance and is not an acceptable form of health insurance coverage. You may pay about \$100-200 per month for insurance per person. If you don't purchase adequate health insurance, as required by the US federal law, your J-1 program participation will be terminated.
- Get copies of important medical and dental records**, x-rays, and prescriptions written in generic terms for you and any accompanying dependents.

- Get copies of financial documents** that show how you will be supported while you are at Emory. You might be asked for these at the U.S. port of entry. We recommend that you have ready access to at least \$2,500 per month to cover your living expenses in the U.S.
- Review your hosting department's invitation letter** for information about program activities, employment details (if applicable), and any program fees.

At the port of entry

- Present your original Form DS-2019 and your valid passport** at the border when you enter the U.S.
- Make sure the date stamp shows "J-1" and "D/S"** when you receive your passport back from the CBP officer after inspection.

After you arrive

- Report to your hosting department** at Emory. Ask your department if you will have any orientations other than the one at ISSS.
- Complete the Scholar Orientation e-form in ISSS Link** no later than 5 days after your arrival in the U.S. Within this e-form are instructions for scheduling your required orientation at ISSS.
- Attend your required orientation at ISSS** within 15 days of the program start date on your DS-2019.
- Do not apply for a driver's license or a social security number** until after you have checked in with ISSS. Your SEVIS record needs to be activated first.
- Start your J-1 activities at Emory** on your start date as listed on your DS-2019. If your arrival in the U.S. was delayed, please check with ISSS to determine your proper J-1 program start date.