

ACADEMIC TRAINING APPLICATION FOR STUDENTS IN J-1 STATUS

This handout provides information to J-1 students wishing to apply for academic training, which is a work opportunity offered by the Department of State for certain types of study-related employment for students in J status. It describes the conditions and application process to qualify for academic training.

The following criteria set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations 22 CFR 62, contains the rules and regulations to participate in an authorized academic training. A student may participate in an academic training program for wages or other remuneration during his or her studies; or commencing not later than 30 days after completion of his or her studies, if the criteria, time limitations, procedures, and evaluation listed below are satisfied (*Source: 22 CFR. § 62.23(f)(2)*).

Your J-1 International Student Advisor

To qualify for academic training, you must first obtain approval in writing from the responsible officer. The responsible officer or an alternate responsible officer referred in the regulation is an international student advisor at the University of Louisville. For further information, consult with an ISSS international student advisor.

Criteria

Eligibility

1. Your primary purpose in the United States must be to study rather than Academic Training.
2. The proposed employment must be directly related to your major field of study.
3. You must be in good academic standing at the University of Louisville.
4. Throughout your academic training you must maintain permission to stay in the United States, in J-1 student status, and apply for extensions as necessary.
5. You must maintain health insurance coverage for yourself and any J-2 dependents throughout your academic training.
6. While you are on academic training, you are still responsible for notifying your ISSS international student advisor of any change in address, telephone number, email address, or any issues to do with your academic training within 10 calendar days of the change.

Limitations

The student is authorized to participate in academic training for the length of time necessary to complete the goals and objectives of the training, provided that the amount of time for academic training (*Source: 22 CFR. § 62.23(f)(4)*):

1. Is approved by the academic dean or academic advisor and approved by a responsible officer;
2. For undergraduate and pre-doctoral training, does not exceed 18 months, inclusive of any prior academic training in the United States, or the period of a full course of study in the United States, whichever is less; except that additional time for academic training is allowed to the extent necessary for the exchange visitor to satisfy the mandatory requirements of his or her degree program in the United States;
3. For post-doctoral training, does not exceed a total of 36 months, inclusive of any prior academic training in the United States as an exchange visitor, or the period of the full course of study in the United States, whichever is less. Additional “Academic Training,” beyond the 18 or 36-month limit, is allowed only if it is **required for the degree**.
4. Part-time employment for Academic Training counts against the total limit available the same as full-time employment.
5. Earning more than one degree does not increase your eligibility for Academic Training.

Applying for Academic Training during post completion of your degree or end of program of study

1. Academic Training with a start date after the completion date of your program will be reduced by any prior periods of Academic Training.
2. You must obtain a written offer letter of appropriate employment from your future employer, a recommendation from your academic advisor, and obtain approval from the ISSS international student advisor **prior to the end date listed on your DS-2019**.
3. Your employment start date of your Academic Training cannot be any **later than 30 days after the end of your program**.
4. If you plan to leave the United States after you complete your program of study and re-enter the country for J-1 Academic Training, you must obtain employment authorization **before** you leave and obtain your new DS2019 form. Be sure to obtain a travel signature on your new DS-2019.

Application (Source: 22 CFR. § 62.23(f)(5))

1. Obtain a letter from your prospective employer on their letterhead, signed and dated that includes your job title, a brief description of the goals and objectives of your “training program” (your employment), the start and end dates and location of the employment and the number of hours per week that you will be working. The letter should have the name and address of your “training supervisor” as well as their telephone number and email address.
2. Give a copy of your employer’s letter to your UofL academic advisor or dean for use to complete your Academic Advisor Authorization Form. This letter must set forth:
 - A. The goals and objectives of the specific training program;
 - B. A description of the training program, including its location, the name and address of the training supervisor, their telephone number and email address, number of work hours per week, and dates of the training;
 - C. How the training relates to the student’s major field of study; and
 - D. Why it is an integral or critical part of the academic program of the exchange visitor student.
3. When your academic advisor’s recommendation is ready, you should deliver or send it to your ISSS International Student Advisor with a copy of the employer’s letter.
4. The International Student Advisor must evaluate the Academic Training program request and decide whether it is warranted and appropriate. If approved, the advisor will authorize the Academic Training and issue you a new DS-2019 Form.
5. Evaluation requirements. The sponsor must evaluate the effectiveness and appropriateness of the academic training in achieving the stated goals and objectives in order to ensure the quality of the academic training program. The academic training sponsor must complete the following evaluation form. You may submit it to one of the international advisors or email it to isss@louisville.edu.

Authorization to work

Social Security Number: To put you on the payroll, your employer will need your Social Security number, which you can obtain by applying for a Social Security card if you do not already have it. Take your passport, I-94 information sheet, your Form DS-2019, and letter of employment from your employer to the Social Security Administration. Your Social Security card may be stamped “Not Valid for Employment.” That stamp will not make you ineligible to work; it means only that no funds will ever go into the Social Security account represented by that number.

Form I-9, “Employment Eligibility Verification”: When you begin work, you and your employer must complete Form I-9, which requires you to document your identity and work authorization according to directions on the back of the Form. Of the various items acceptable as documentation, you may find that the most convenient combination is your passport, I-94 Departure Record card, and a copy of DS-2019 form. Your employer, who keeps Form I-9, will make copies of the documents you submit, and return the original to you. Form I-9 must be updated any time that you receive a renewal of your permission for Academic Training.

Social Security and Other Taxes

Social Security taxes: In general, as a J-1 student you will be exempt from Social Security (F.I.C.A.) taxes for your first five years in the United States, as long as you continue to declare non-resident status for tax purposes (see Internal Revenue Publication 519, “U.S. Tax Guide for Aliens.”)

Federal, state and local taxes: Unless you qualify under a tax treaty between the United States and your home government, your earnings as a J-1 student will be subject to applicable federal, state and local taxes, and employers are required by law to withhold those taxes from your paychecks. Generally by April 15th, you must file a federal income tax return and a “Required Statement” covering the prior calendar year to determine whether you owe more taxes or have a refund coming.

A note of caution: As a J-1 student, you are eligible for a variety of work opportunities in the United States, but employment without proper authorization is a serious violation of your status. Remember that before you start any kind of employment, you must first consult your International Student Advisor in the ISSS whose written approval is necessary in advance.

**ACADEMIC TRAINING
ACADEMIC ADVISOR AUTHORIZATION**

To the Academic Advisor: The international student who has presented this form to you has met preliminary eligibility to engage in academic training set forth by the Code of Federal Regulations 22 CFR 62. However, to receive authorization, the student must obtain your recommendation. The student should provide a letter from the prospective employer for you to complete this form. Please complete the following information and return the form to the student to submit to the ISSS office. If you have any questions, please contact one of the international advisors at (502) 852-6603 or email isss@louisville.edu.

Name of Student: _____ Student Id #: _____

The above student is currently on a J-1 visa majoring in _____ and wishes to engage in the Academic Training Program discussed below.

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM

Name of Employer: _____

Supervisor Last Name: _____ Supervisor First Name: _____

Supervisor Tel.: (_____) ____ - ____ ext. ____ Supervisor Email Address: _____

Site of Academic Training Name: _____

Site of Academic Training Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code: _____

Student's Job Title: _____ Number of Work Hours per week: _____

Dates of Training: Begin Date: _____ End Date: _____

2. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SPECIFIC TRAINING PROGRAM

3. HOW DOES THE TRAINING PROGRAM RELATE TO THE STUDENT'S MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY?

4. WHY IS THE TRAINING AN INTEGRAL PART OR CRITICAL PART OF THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM OF THE EXCHANGE VISITOR STUDENT?

As the student's academic advisor, I have set forth the nature and details of the academic training program. I approve of the amount of time requested as necessary to complete the goals and objectives of the training. With this letter, I recommend that you authorize the student to participate in the Academic Training Program that I have described above.

Signature of Academic Advisor or Dean

Date

Print Name

Phone

Email Address: