

# EXCHANGE STUDENTS

## DECIDING WHICH VISA CLASSIFICATION TO ENTER YOUR EXCHANGE PROGRAM ON...

*There are significant differences that will determine your employment opportunities available to you while on your exchange to the United States. Listed below will give you a comparative look at these differences.*

F-1 STUDENT VISA	J-1 STUDENT VISA
<b>Initial Entry</b> - You may enter the country no more than 30-days prior to the program start date on your I-20 (Certificate of Eligibility for F-1 student status)	<b>Initial Entry</b> - You may enter the country no more than 30-days prior to the program start date on your DS-2019 (Certificate of Eligibility for J-1 exchange visitor status)
<b>Full-time enrollment</b> - Must maintain full course of study and be making normal progress towards program completion	<b>Full-time enrollment</b> - Must maintain a full course of study and be making normal progress towards program completion
<b>On-campus employment</b> - Student may engage in on-campus employment without approval from the International Students & Scholars Office	<b>On-campus employment</b> - Students may engage in on-campus employment <b>with</b> approval from the International Students & Scholars Office
<b>Degree-seeking</b> – students entering in F-1 student status are eligible to change their program from non-degree seeking to degree seeking with proper approvals from admission	<b>Degree-seeking</b> - Students entering on a J-1 student visa are not eligible to change their program from a non-degree seeking to a degree seeking program without a change in category (\$198 fee applicable)
<b>Time Limitations</b> – no specific time limitation for F-1 student non-degree	<b>Time Limitations</b> - Students entering on a J-1 student visa in a non-degree program are allowed no more than 24 months in this category – this includes the time period spent studying and any time spent in academic training
<b>Off-campus Employment</b> - Students entering in F-1 student non-degree are generally not eligible for off-campus training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <i>Some exceptions apply with 1-year academic enrollment eligibility</i></li> </ul>	<b>Off-campus Employment</b> - J-1 students <b>may</b> be eligible for <b>Academic Training</b> . This training will be permitted at the end of the exchange program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Academic Training will be approved for the equivalent time spent enrolled as a non-degree student and must begin no more than 30 days after completion of your program.</li> <li>❖ Must have a job offer prior to training approval and completion of program.</li> </ul>
<b>Grace Period</b> – Student entering on a F-1 visa have a 60 day grace period after the completion of their exchange program to depart the United States. This means that you essentially revert to a ‘tourist’ in F-1 status.	<b>Grace Period</b> - Students entering on a J-1 visa have a 30 day grace period after completion of their exchange program to depart the United States. This means that you essentially revert to a ‘tourist’ in J-1 status.
	<b>Possible Two Year Home Residency (212.e subject):</b> Some students may be subject to a two-year home residency requirement based on skills list or government financing. This requirement means you will need to spend an aggregate period of two years in your home country of permanent residency before becoming eligible for certain immigration benefits within the U.S.