Welcome to Yale!

The information on this page provides an overview of the steps you can begin work on today to prepare for your visa application and travels, as well as some of the practical matters of relocating to New Haven.

COVID-19 FAQs

Please read our FAQs for international scholars[1], and find more resources on our COVID-19 page[2].

Apply for the Scholar Visa

To start the visa process, your Yale department will submit your appointment information to OISS. At the same time you will receive an email asking you to submit biographical data and passport information. Which visa you will hold during your time at Yale will be determined by OISS in consultation with you and your host department.

For details about how to apply for your J-1 visa click here[3]. If you are applying for an H-1B, O-1, TN or other employment-based visa, please contact your OISS adviser[4].

Before You Leave Home

As you prepare to depart, you will have many questions about living in New Haven, including the items listed on this page[5]. If you will be using the J-1 visa you may want to read the State Department's Exchange Visitor Welcome Brochure[6].

Arrive in the U.S.

Upon arrival, you will go through immigration inspection[7], where your electronic I-94 entry record will be created. Be sure to have your passport and immigration document (DS-2019 for J-1, I-797 for H-1B) with you. Do not pack them in your checked luggage. Before you leave the immigration checkpoint, make sure you have the small ink entry stamp with your visa classification and expiration date (“D/S” if you are J-1) handwritten (sample at right).
OISS Check-In and Orientation upon Arrival

Newly arrived scholars are asked to check in with OISS at **9 am on Mondays and Wednesdays the week you arrive on campus.** Please bring your passport, immigration document (DS-2019 for J-1, I-20 for F-1 OPT, or I-797 for H-1B) and a copy of your I-94 entry record. Accompanying family members are welcome to attend, but it is not required. However the scholar should bring the immigration documents for each family member to the check-in. To save time during check in, prior to arriving at OISS please enter your local New Haven (or other U.S. town) address [here.](https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/report-your-address/f-1-j-1-students) [8]

The OISS arrival check-in includes a short information session. Topics included in this session include a review of your responsibilities of your immigration status, as well as an introduction to Yale and New Haven resources. This is also an opportunity to ask your questions about settling in to this new community. And if you need a U.S. social security number, you will received details about obtaining one. The check-in and orientation session take an hour to complete.

Source URL: [https://oiss.yale.edu/coming-to-yale/getting-started-with-the-visa-process/researchers-faculty](https://oiss.yale.edu/coming-to-yale/getting-started-with-the-visa-process/researchers-faculty)

Links:
[1] https://oiss.yale.edu/covid-19-information/for-scholars/faqs-for-scholars-j-1-and-h-1b
[3] https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/j-1-scholars/applying-for-a-visa
[4] https://oiss.yale.edu/about/contact-oiss
[8] https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/report-your-address/f-1-j-1-students