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] to learn about changes in arrival dates and orientation. You should also review the additional resources on our Reopening Fall 2020 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.

Details about how to apply for your J-1 visa [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. We recommend you check our Before You Leave Home’ resources [5] for many answers to your questions. 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**

Please read our FAQs for international scholars [1] to learn about changes in arrival dates and orientation. You should also review the additional resources on our Reopening Fall 2020 page [2].

Newly arrived J-1 scholars, who have DS-2019s issued by Yale University, must report their U.S. address and phone number [8] and submit a New Scholar Check-in request in their OISS Connect account [9]. If you have any questions, email Nathan Duddles. [10] Please complete these steps as soon as you arrive in the U.S.

As a reminder, scholars on F-1 OPT or OPT STEM Extension must report their employment information and U.S. address to the school they graduated from.

- Instructions for Yale graduates on OPT [11]
- Instructions for Yale graduates on STEM OPT [12]

Sign up for the OISS Virtual Orientation Session. You will receive instructions on how to do so through an email from OISS Connect approximately 10 days before your arrival in the U.S. You should choose the orientation closest to your arrival in the United States. Review the scholar orientation slides [13] in advance of your orientation session. We encourage you to read through the information and come to the session with questions. If you have questions please email your OISS adviser [14].

If you are being paid by Yale, you should contact your Yale department administrator about your benefits and employment status, as well as completing the I-9 form [15]. In addition, you will need to apply for a U.S. social security number [16].

Find information about COVID-19 and Yale's operational and accommodations [17]. We look forward to welcoming you in person once the University is past this health emergency.

**Source URL:** https://oiss.yale.edu/coming-to-yale/visa-process-for-scholars

**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/j-1-scholars/maintaining-legal-status/report-your-address
[10] mailto:nathan.duddles@yale.edu?subject=New%20Scholar%20Arrival%20Documents
[12] https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/f-1-students/employment/optional-practical-training/stem-opt-extension/reporting-requirements
[13] https://oiss.yale.edu/node/3449
[14] https://oiss.yale.edu/node/1286
[15] https://your.yale.edu/work-yale/support/employee-services/submitting-your-i-9-form
[16] https://oiss.yale.edu/node/51
[17] https://communications.yale.edu/covid-19-information