FAQs for Scholars

May 20, 2021

Are you planning to arrive at Yale this semester? Check out our Getting Started section [1] for information about visas, travel, and all the practical matters of arriving in a new community.

In addition to the FAQs below please continue to monitor university and department-specific policy regarding the fall semester, including the phased Research Reactivation plan [2] and COVID Vaccination FAQs for International Students and Scholars [3].

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J-1 Scholars Who Have Not Yet Arrived in the U.S.

I am a new scholar invited to come to Yale. What should I do to request a J-1 DS-2019?

Please review the preliminary steps on this page [4].

I have my DS-2019. What is the latest date I can use it to enter the U.S.?

You may enter the U.S. with a valid J-1 visa (Canadians are exempt) up until the start date listed on the DS-2019 Form in Section 3. If you will be arriving after that start date, please contact your Yale department, and they will request that a new form be sent to you from OISS.

I had to delay my arrival, do I need a new DS-2019?

If your arrival to the U.S. will be later than the start date on Section 3 of your DS-2019, then OISS needs to provide you with a new form. Please contact your Yale department, and they will request an updated form.

If my arrival has been delayed, do I need to apply for a new J visa stamp?

As long as the J visa has not expired by the time you enter the U.S. you do not need to apply to a U.S. embassy for a new J visa.

Can I begin my Yale appointment remotely from outside the U.S.?

At present the university does not allow new scholars (never been at Yale) to begin their Yale appointment from outside the U.S. There may be exceptions to this policy, so please check with your host department directly.
If I have decided to not come to Yale, is there anything I need to do?
Yes, please notify your Yale department, and send an email to Sarah Henderson [5].

J-1 Scholars Arriving or Returning to Campus

If you are arriving for the first time, or returning to the Yale campus after being outside of the U.S., please review Yale's quarantine policy [6]. Please check with your host department at Yale to learn about specific protocols and resources in your workplace. Some of the resources and procedures listed below may require your review prior to entering any Yale facilities.

- COVID-19 Vaccination FAQs [3]
- Workplace Guidance [8]
- Yale Research Reactivation Phases [2]
- Health and Safety Guidelines [9]

Should I let OISS know I have arrived at Yale?
Yes. Please report your U.S. address and phone number [10] and submit a New Scholar Check-In request in your OISS Connect account [11]. If you have any questions, email Sarah Solarski [12].

Is there an OISS orientation for newly arrived scholars?
Yes. You will be invited to attend a virtual OISS orientation [13] once we have collected your immigration documents.

Current J-1 Scholars

I planned to end my time at Yale and go home, but now I can’t. What should I do?
Please work with your Yale host department to see if you can extend your appointment at Yale temporarily. To extend your DS-2019 for J visa you will need to have extended health insurance, funding at the Yale minimum levels and an extended academic appointment. The university is committed to assisting international scholars however we can, including making special arrangements whenever possible.

You may also want to contact your home country embassy or consulate in the U.S. to let them know your situation. You may use the website here to find foreign consulates in the U.S. [14]

My department cannot extend my appointment – what should I do?
If you have not already, please contact your OISS adviser. OISS is working with the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs and various Dean’s Offices in order to explore ways in which the university might allow special extension provisions. In extreme cases it may be necessary to change visa status, and/or discuss other options with an immigration attorney. Please start by connecting with your OISS advisor [15].
I have a Short-Term Scholar J visa only good for 6 months, but need more time – what do I do?

In some cases, OISS has been able to petition the U.S. State Department to make a special exception and allow Short Term Scholars to change to J-1 Research Scholars, which allow for more time. Please contact your adviser directly to discuss options. This request can only be made if your department is able to extend your appointment and if the reason for the request is the consistent with your original objective. In addition, you must show evidence of continued financial support and health insurance. There is $367 for this request.

I have decided to end my appointment early and will depart the U.S. What should I do?

Please coordinate any early departure (leaving before the end of your appointment and/or DS-2019 end date) with your Yale department. Once a departure plan has been established, please contact your OISS adviser to confirm so that we can update your SEVIS record. It is important to report early departures to prevent difficulties in returning to the U.S.

Am I allowed to work remotely in the U.S. from my home during the university Phased Reactivation?

If you are working from your home in Connecticut, please check with your department to make sure you are still permitted to work remotely. This may also need to be approved by the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs. If you are working remotely in the U.S. but not in Connecticut your department may need to obtain approval from the out-of-state work location committee.

Am I allowed to work from outside the U.S.?

If you are working from outside the U.S., please check with your department and your OISS adviser to determine how long this arrangement may continue. You must contact your adviser to report that you are working remotely from outside the U.S. in order to keep your J record active. Any current J-1 scholar (the above accommodation does not apply to new scholars who have not yet started at Yale) working from outside the U.S. must have their department obtain approval from the out-of-state work location committee.

H-1B and O-1 Employees

I am a new Yale employee, do I need to do anything with OISS?

New H-1B and O-1 employees should have been contacted by their OISS adviser and completed an OISS orientation, or received orientation information. Your department should be able to assist you in completing a new I-9 Form which must be completed in your first three days of employment. You will need to sign up for health insurance benefits in your first 30 days by logging into Workday. Please contact your OISS adviser if you have any questions during your on-boarding process. Welcome to Yale!

I am already at Yale on an H-1B or O-1 visa. What do I need to do about extending my current status?

Please notify OISS at least 6 months in advance of any change of employment or need for an extension of visa status. Unfortunately an O-1 or H-1B extension is no quicker than a new petition, which takes about four
months using expedited Premium Processing. It is important to be alert to the site of activity on your H-1B petition. Employees are required to work 100% at the location noted on the H-1B petition. Before proceeding with the preparation of the H-1B extension, it is best that scholars discuss any concerns with their OISS adviser directly.

Getting Help From OISS

The OISS advising staff are working full-time remotely since the International Center is closed. Please contact your adviser directly to set up a phone call or Zoom appointment. For information on how to obtain updated visa documentation see below.

Additional Links

- OISS's Travel Guidance & Restrictions [18]
- COVID-19 Vaccination FAQs [3]
- Yale's Quarantine Policy [6]
- COVID-19 Testing & Screening Program [7]
- Workplace Guidance [8]
- Yale Research Reactivation Phases [2]
- Health and Safety Guidelines [9]

Source URL: https://oiss.yale.edu/covid-19-updates/faqs-for-scholars

Links:
[1] https://oiss.yale.edu/getting-started/new-scholars
[2] https://research.yale.edu/phase-1-research-reactivation
[8] https://your.yale.edu/work-yale/covid-19-workplace-guidance
[11] https://oiss.yale.edu/about/contact-oiss