

Employment for J-1 Scholars

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Employment for J-1 Scholars

As a J-1 Scholar (professor, research scholar, short-term scholar or specialist), your employment (paid or unpaid) in the United States is limited to the activity, period, and location described on your DS-2019 form.

Accepting New Engagements

Scholars should not accept any new opportunities beyond what is listed on your DS-2019 without first checking with OISS. This includes unpaid occasional lectures or consultations or similar incidental activities that involve any kind of compensation (money, gift cards, etc...) for services, including clinical trials, guest lectures and in some cases earnings from editorial work or royalties from publications.

Incidental Activities: Occasional Lectures & Short-Term Engagements (Professor/Research Scholar & Short-Term Scholar Categories Only)

OISS may grant work authorization for the occasional lecture or short-term consultation if eligible, but you may engage in such activity only with prior written approval. Your J-1 Responsible Officer will issue this approval letter for work authorization.

If sponsored by OISS, you must [submit the J-1 \[1\] Occasional Lecture/Short Term Consultation Application Form \[1\]](#) via [OISS Connect \[1\]](#) in advance of the date of the proposed activity.

If your J-1 sponsor is an external agency or organization, you will need permission from this organization.

A request for authorization to engage in an occasional lecture or short-term consultation will be possible only if the proposed activity:

- Is directly related to the objectives of your Exchange Visitor program.
- Is incidental to your primary program activities.
- Will not delay the completion of your Exchange Visitor program.
- Is documented in SEVIS.
- You must be employed as an independent contractor as defined by [8 C.F.R. § 274a.1\(j\) \[2\]](#)

The inviting organization will need a copy of this letter in order to pay you an honorarium. You should also keep a copy for your permanent record.

Volunteer Work

According to the Code of Federal Regulations 8 CFR 274 (a) (f) the term employee means an individual who provides services or labor for wages or other types of remuneration. Therefore employment is work performed or services provided with the expectation that there will be compensation, either financial or other. "Volunteer work" on the other hand refers to philanthropic activity without financial gain.

Employment Authorization

The most important employment issue that you always need to keep in mind is the issue of legal (or "authorized") versus illegal (or "unauthorized") employment. You must always make sure that any employment you plan to engage in is legal employment. Any unauthorized (i.e. illegal) employment - even for one day - even if you did not

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know it was illegal - poses a grave threat to your ability to remain in or return to the United States. And you must always make sure that you have the necessary employment authorization before you begin work, since starting work without prior authorization-even if you receive authorization later-constitutes illegal employment. If you have questions, always [consult with an OISS adviser](#) [3] before beginning any employment. This is the only way to be sure that you won't engage in illegal employment, with all of its adverse consequences for your future in the United States.

Incidental Activities Request

Use this request to receive permission to engage in paid or unpaid opportunities and engagements beyond what is listed on your DS-2019, such as the occasional lecture or short-term consultation.

[1]

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[Incidental Activities Request](#)

[Use this request to receive permission to engage in paid or unpaid opportunities and engagements beyond what is listed on your DS-2019, such as the occasional lecture or short-term consultation.](#)

[1]

Source

URL:<https://oiss.yale.edu/employment-taxes/employment-for-international-scholars/employment-for-j-1-scholars>

Links

[1] <https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/j-1-scholars/oiss-connect-requests/incidental-activities-request> [2] http://www.nafsa.org/_file/_amresource/8cfr274a.htm#274a1j [3] <https://oiss.yale.edu/about/connect-with-oiss>