J-2 Status for Spouses, Partners & Children

The spouse or partner and dependent children of the J-1 Exchange Visitor are eligible for J-2 status and may use this status to accompany the J-1 individual to the U.S. Dependents are defined as children under the age of 21 and legally married spouses. You must also demonstrate sufficient financial resources for their support.

Student Family Members

Newly admitted students will receive an email survey from OISS upon your acceptance of your offer of admission that will ask you for the relevant information about any family members accompanying you. Matriculating students wishing to notify OISS that a spouse, partner, or child will join you after your arrival should complete the F-1 and J-1 Dependent SEVIS Information Form [1] [PDF] along with evidence of sufficient funds to support their stay.

Scholar Family Members

Scholars (postdoc, postgrad, etc…) wishing to notify OISS that a spouse, partner, or child will join you after your arrival should login to OISS Connect, go to Requests, and enter the families information. You will also need to upload each family members passport ID page to OISS Connect.

Applying for J-2 Status

Each person in J-2 status must have their own DS-2019. If the spouse and/or dependent child will accompany the J-1 scholar, this information must be conveyed by the host department at the time of requesting the initial DS-2019 form. If the spouse and/or dependent child will join the scholar in the U.S, the scholar will request the DS-2019 from OISS.

Support Minimums

Scholar

Spouse

Each Child
With the DS-2019, the J-2 dependent may apply for a J-2 visa at the U.S. Consulate.

J-1/J-2 Health Insurance Requirement

All Exchange Visitors (J-1) and their J-2 dependents are required to maintain health and accident insurance coverage during the entire time they participate in an Exchange Visitor program. See under Health Insurance Requirement for more information [4].

Requesting Dependent J-2 Sponsorship

Once you have evidence of additional funding you may go into OISS Connect and create a request for J-2 sponsorship for your spouse or children under 21 years old. Login to your OISS Connect account by clicking on the Scholars section here [5] (using the original email which invited you to the account.) Go to the Request tab, and hit the Add New Dependents button. You will need each family members details (date of birth, city of birth, etc…) and may need to attach your additional funding to support family members. Hit Create Request to submit to OISS for review. OISS will contact you when the new DS-2019 forms are ready for you to send to your family members.

Source URL: https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/j-1-scholars/j-2-status-for-spouses-partners-children

Links: