

### J-1 Scholar Categories

#### Category

Research Scholar /Professor

#### Details

??This J-1 Exchange Visitor category has a minimum stay of three weeks, and a maximum continuous stay of 5 years. The five year maximum stay for a J-1 research scholar/professor. The five year "clock" begins with the start date on the Form DS-2019 and this status remains available until the end of five years from that date or the date the J-1 program is concluded, whichever is earlier. At Yale, the initial DS-2019 will be issued for the duration of the academic appointment and can be extended for the duration of the Yale appointment up to a maximum of five years. However, when the program at Yale is completed so is the J-1 status unless the scholar [transfers immediately to another J-1 sponsor](#) [1].

Paid employment for J-1 research scholars or professors is permitted only if it is described on the Form DS-2019 issued to the J-1 visa holder. In most cases, it is not possible for a J-1 visa holder to accept paid employment outside of Yale. However, there is a provision which allows for occasional lectures, if the permission is requested and granted by OISS before the event. Please [contact an adviser in OISS](#) [2] for details.

*12 and 24 Month Bars:*

There are [severe restrictions that make some individuals ineligible to use the Research Scholar or Professor J-1 category](#) [3].

Short-Term Scholar

???The J-1 Short-Term Scholar category can be used when the academic objective for the visit can be completed within six (6) months or less. This J category is often used for lectures, observations, consultations, or to participate in seminars, workshops, conferences or professional meetings. The J-1 Short-Term Scholar category is designed for academics who reside outside the U.S. and will from time-to-time be invited for short visits. The J-1 Short-Term Scholar may return to the U.S. again for a new Short-Term Scholar stay providing there is a substantial break in between and each visit constitutes a new objective. Another advantage of using the Short-Term Scholar J-1 category is that the visitor may also return to the U.S. for a longer term stay using the J-1 Research Scholar/Professor category without being [subject to the 12 and 24 month bars](#) [3].

Specialist

*(rarely used)*

??Specialists, for J-1 purposes, are defined as individuals who are experts in a field of specialized knowledge or skill coming to the U.S. for observing, consulting or demonstrating their special skills. A specialist may not fill a permanent or long-term position of employment while in the U.S. This category is not

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intended for experts covered by the research scholar, professor, short-term scholar or foreign physician in graduate medical education or training categories. The maximum period of stay is one year.

Please also review [Employment for J-1 Scholars](#) [4].

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**Source URL:** <https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/j-1-scholars/understanding-j-1-status/j-1-scholar-categories>

### Links

[1] <https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/j-1-scholars/transferring-leaving-yale> [2] <https://oiss.yale.edu/about/connect-with-oiss> [3] <https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/j-1-scholars/understanding-j-1-status/understanding-the-12-and-24-month-bars> [4] <https://oiss.yale.edu/employment-taxes/employment-for-international-scholars/employment-for-j-1-scholars>