F-1 & J-1 Comparison

Every full-time degree student at Yale is eligible for the F-1 visa and the majority of Yale international students hold this visa status. Some students may also be eligible for the J-1 student visa, an exchange visitor option. The J-1 visa is part of a larger U.S. Department of State mission to foster cultural and educational exchange between countries. To be eligible for the [J-1 student visa](https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/j-1-students/applying-for-the-j-1-student-visa), a substantial portion of your financial support must be from a source other than your personal assets. This can include Yale funding or scholarship from another organization. Students with only personal or family funding are NOT eligible for J-1 status. There are a few basic differences between the F-1 and J-1 visa types, which are outlined in the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>F-1 Status</strong></th>
<th><strong>J-1 Status</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Source of Funding</strong></td>
<td>No funding source requirements. Can be funded through personal, Yale, or independent scholarships.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>On-Campus Employment</strong></td>
<td>Part time (up to 20 hours/week) when school is in session, full-time during periods of recess.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Off-Campus Employment</strong></td>
<td>Optional Practical Training [3] - up to 12 month period per degree level of training directly related to their studies. No job offer required prior to application.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dependents</strong></td>
<td>F-2 dependents are not eligible for employment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Requirement to Return Home Upon Program Completion</strong></td>
<td>No requirement to return home upon program completion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bar to J-1 Scholar Status</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A substantial portion of funding must be from a source other than personal assets. Prior permission must be obtained from OISS. [2]

**Links:**

[1] https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/j-1-students/applying-for-the-j-1-student-visa
[4] https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/j-1-students/employment/academic-training
[6] https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/j-1-students/understanding-j-1-status/understanding-the-12-and-24-month-bars

Source URL: [https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/j-1-students/applying-for-a-visa/f-1-j-1-comparison](https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/j-1-students/applying-for-a-visa/f-1-j-1-comparison)