

Maintaining J-1 Status

This is an introduction to some of the major regulations regarding your status in the U.S. It is important to communicate with your ARO, who must be notified before these changes occur. As an J-1 student, your first responsibility is to maintain a full course of study as part of your exchange program.

Every Semester

You must check in with your ARO every semester within the first 30 days of classes. We must confirm you are physically present and attending classes full-time to register you in SEVIS. If we cannot do this within the first 30 days, your record must be terminated in SEVIS.

Update Your ARO

- Changes to your address or contact information within 10 days
- Before you try to drop to part-time or withdraw (must comply with other regulations)

Work

Work in the U.S. is heavily regulated and must be approved in advance by your ARO. On-campus work is generally permissible for up to 20 hours per week. Internships or similar experiences off-campus must be approved as Academic Training or (very rarely) approved due to severe economic crisis. All work must be entered into SEVIS. Academic Training must be directly related to your studies and approved by your academic dean. You must pay taxes on any income you make in the U.S.

Travel

You are able to travel, but please inform us of your plans before you go. When you travel inside the U.S., we highly recommend bringing your passport and your DS-2019. To travel outside the U.S., you must bring these documents in order to re-enter, and your DS-2019 must have a travel signature dated within the last 10 months. Your visa must be valid and unexpired to re-enter. After you finish your program, you will be able to remain in the U.S. for 30 days. Once you leave the U.S. during this grace period, you will not be able to re-enter.

Termination of Status

Failure to comply with these requirements forces your ARO to terminate your record and subjects you to deportation. Your visa will no longer be valid if you lose status. Your ARO is also required to terminate your record if you are suspended, expelled, convicted of a crime, for other disciplinary action, or if you fail to maintain health insurance. Termination may negatively impact any future visa applications.