

Maintaining J-1 Status

The J-1 visa is issued for educational and cultural exchange, and a J-1 visitor is expected to return to his/her home country when the exchange program is complete. J-1 Scholars are responsible for complying with U.S. federal laws and regulations governing the J visa. Failure to do so will violate their legal status in the U.S. Your responsibilities as a J-1 scholar at Louisiana State University (LSU) include, but may not be limited to the following:

1. **Report Address Change.** J-1 regulations require J-1 scholars to report a change of address within 10 days (of the address change) to their immigration advisor, known as the **Responsible Officer (RO)** or **Alternate Responsible Officer (ARO)**. Willful or negligent failure to do so will lead to the termination of the scholar's program.
2. **Maintain Adequate Health Insurance.** J-1 scholars must maintain adequate health insurance for themselves and any dependents in J-2 status throughout their stay in the U.S. Willful failure to do so will lead to program termination.
3. **Abide by Employment Regulations.** Scholars may conduct research or teach only at LSU, unless specifically authorized ahead of time by the RO/ARO to work, give a lecture, or consult at another institution. You must notify your RO/ARO if you are invited to speak or consult at another institution.
4. **Report Changes in Program.** Notify your RO/ARO whenever there is a change in your academic program or program dates. Such changes may include additional duties, change in source or amounts of funding, etc.
5. **Apply for an Extension Prior to the DS-2019 Expiration.** Apply for an extension before your DS-2019 form expires if you intend to stay at LSU longer. Scholars in the Research Scholar or Professor categories currently have a maximum of five years to complete their J-1 program. Short-term scholars have 6 months, and specialists have one year.
6. **Receive Transfer Authorization Prior to Leaving LSU.** You must receive authorization from your immigration advisor before leaving LSU in order to transfer to another institution.
7. **Obtain Travel Signature Prior to Departing the U.S.** Obtain your immigration advisor's signature on your DS-2019 form before traveling outside the U.S.
8. **Report Departure.** Inform your RO/ARO if you plan to leave LSU before the expiration date of your DS-2019 form as well and provide a reason for the early departure.

9. **Depart the U.S. within 30-Day Grace Period.** Scholars must depart the U.S. within 30 days of the DS-2019 expiration date or program end date, whichever is earlier, unless they have applied for a change of status with the US CIS.