

## **J-1 STUDENT INTERNS**

You will be entering the United States as a J-1 Student Intern. This page contains important information about your J-1 status and the immigration laws that affect that status.

### **SEVIS (Student Exchange Visitor Information System) Immigration database:**

As a visitor entering the U.S. in the J-1 visa category, you will be issued a document, the form DS-2019, which is produced through the SEVIS (Student Exchange Visitor Information System) database administered and maintained by U.S. immigration agencies. Prior to applying for your visa a \$180 SEVIS fee must be paid. Please see information included on methods of paying the fee.

### **Program Activities:**

You are required to spend at least 32 hours per week participating in internship and related research activities. You may take coursework in addition to the internship activities, with the approval of your supervisor, if time allows.

### **Two Year Homestay Requirement:**

Because the purpose of the J programs is to promote international and cultural exchange, some J Student Interns (and any accompanying dependents) are required to spend 2 years in their home country before they are allowed to return to the U.S. for any type of long-term stay. If your program was financed by your home government or by the U.S. government, or if the skills you gained in the U.S. are in short supply in your home country, then you will be subject to this home stay requirement. The 2-year home stay (after completion of your program) allows your home country to benefit from your experience in the U.S. Not all J-1 Student Interns are subject to the requirement. Please read the attached page entitled "TWO YEAR HOME-COUNTRY PHYSICAL PRESENCE REQUIREMENT" and page 2 of your DS-2019 at subsection (a) for more details on whether or not the two-year home country physical stay requirement applies to you.

### **Traveling outside the U.S. on J-1 status:**

To be readmitted to the U.S. in J-1 status after short trips out of the country, you will need the International Student/Scholar Advisor in our office to sign your DS-2019. The signature of the International Student/Scholar Advisor confirms for the immigration inspector that you are affiliated with UAF and that you have sufficient finances to return to the U.S.

Before leaving the country, you need to make sure that your visa is still valid. If your visa has expired, or if you have used all "entries" that your visa allowed, you will not be admitted back into the U.S. You will need to go to a U.S. embassy or consulate abroad and apply for a new visa.