

COMPARISON BETWEEN F AND J STATUS

F-1 Student Visa

Issued Upon Presentation of I-20

1. You may be admitted to the U.S. for D/S (duration of status as long as a full course of study is pursued; within dates of I-20).
2. You may hold an assistantship up to 20 hours per week maximum.
3. You may work on campus at the school you are authorized to attend (maximum of 20 hrs/wk. during school, full-time during vacation periods).
4. You may NOT work off-campus without permission from school and/or US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).
5. You may apply for practical training (off-campus work authorization) in your field of your study under: **Curricular Practical Training (CPT)** if required or for credit; or **Optional Practical Training (OPT)**: prior and/or after completion of study for accumulated maximum of 12 months.
6. You may be eligible to adjust to permanent residency from within the United States.
7. You may request change to another status: i.e. J, H, etc.

F-2 (Dependent of F-1)

1. You may attend school for recreational purposes only. No study for vocational purposes or degree preparation is allowed.
2. You may not work or hold an assistantship.

J-1 Exchange Visitor-Student Category

Issued upon presentation of DS-2019

1. You may be admitted to the U.S. for D/S (duration of status as long as a full course of study is pursued within dates of the DS-2019).
2. With written approval from sponsor, you may hold an assistantship up to 20 hrs/wk. maximum.
3. With written approval from sponsor, you may work on or off campus (maximum of 20 hrs/wk. during school, full-time during vacation periods).
4. You may not change category of your stay; i.e. scholar to student without departing the US and applying for a new visa stamp.
5. With written approval from sponsor, you may participate in academic training (work authorization and/or academic projects) up to 18 months. (Doctoral graduates may be eligible for an additional period of 18 months).
6. You may be subject to a two-year home country residency requirement. (Based on Skills List or financial support, you may have to reside in your home country for 2 years before being eligible for change of status to an employee visa status or gain US Permanent Residency).
7. You may not change to another status if you are subject to two-year home country residency requirement. If you are not subject to the requirement, you may be eligible to change your status.

J-2 (Dependent of J-1)

1. You may attend school for recreational or degree-seeking purposes.
2. You may not work or hold an assistantship without work authorization approved by US Citizenship and Immigration Services. Application materials are available from OISS.