This handout summarizes important rights and responsibilities you have as a J-1 Exchange Visitor in relation to United States government immigration regulations, and identifies situations for which you should seek assistance from the ISSO. It will not detail all of the actual procedures required for you to take advantage of immigration benefits, but gives an important overview of what you need to know. The ISSO will provide additional information, counseling and assistance to help you maintain your lawful immigration status while you are at Boston University (BU). As regulations and procedures do change from time to time, the ISSO will inform you of substantial changes via BU email or on the ISSO website at http://www.bu.edu/isso.

THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & SCHOLARS OFFICE

The ISSO provides professional expertise on immigration and employment and helps to ensure scholar and institutional compliance with federal regulations. ISSO advisors are available to guide scholars through the often complicated requirements for foreign nationals working in the U.S. We strongly advise you to contact us any time you have a question pertaining to your J-1 exchange visitor status, your appointment at BU or if you intend to travel and reenter the U.S.

All immigration matters on behalf of BU are processed through the ISSO. Only the ISSO staff is authorized to sign the legal documents and forms required to sponsor international scholars. The ISSO processes all BU sponsored requests for J-1 sponsorship in-house and the University works with a specific, limited list of immigration attorneys on applications for lawful permanent residence. Although we have extensive expertise in J-1 Exchange Visitor regulations and cases, we do not serve as immigration attorneys. If you are facing a complex immigration matter, or a situation involving legal advising outside of your J-1 appointment at BU, ISSO staff may refer you to well-respected immigration attorneys or criminal attorneys who may be able to provide more comprehensive legal advising and represent you in legal filing and case processing.

The ISSO reports directly to the Vice President and Associate Provost for Global Programs. BU Global Programs provides strategic support and operational oversight to the ISSO, as well as to BU Study Abroad, the Center for English Language and Orientation Programs (CELOP), and to other university initiatives abroad. See: http://www.bu.edu/globalprograms/.

IMMIGRATION ACRONYMS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- **ISSO**: Boston University International Students & Scholars Office
- **SEVIS**: Student and Exchange Visitor Information System – a DHS database used by schools to issue immigration documents and monitor J-1 exchange visitors and their J-2 dependents in the U.S.
- **DHS**: U.S. Department of Homeland Security — an agency of the U.S. government that houses, among other entities, the three immigration-related departments:
  - **USCIS**: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
    - Approves immigration benefits, including employment authorization
  - **ICE**: Immigration and Customs Enforcement
    - Charged with enforcement of immigration-related infractions
  - **CBP**: Customs and Border Protection
    - Operates U.S. ports of entry and departure
- **DOS**: U.S. Department of State – an agency of the U.S. government that oversees U.S. embassies and consulates abroad and adjudicates applications for visas to the U.S.
IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

Exchange Visitor Program. The J-1 Exchange Visitor Program is intended to promote mutual understanding between the U.S. and other countries through educational and cultural exchange. Participants like yourself are integral to the success of the program. The J-1 Exchange Visitor Program is administered by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs under the U.S. Department of State (DOS). The DOS grants authority to certain approved institutions, including Boston University, to serve as designated J-1 Program Sponsors in order to support the overall goals of the Exchange Visitor Program.

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) – Private Sector Exchanges
email: jvisas@state.gov; telephone: (844) 300-1824

Program Sponsor. Your program sponsor is the institution listed in Item #2 of your Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status (Form DS-2019). The program sponsor has legal authorization to grant you certain benefits, assist you in applying to the DOS or DHS for other benefits, and assist you in fulfilling your responsibilities. Note: If BU is not your program sponsor and another agency or organization has issued your Form DS-2019, please substitute the name of your program sponsor each time you read “ISSO” throughout this handout and consult directly with your program sponsor to report your arrival, communicate any changes and discuss any questions or concerns related to your status as a J-1 Exchange Visitor.

Category: Your category appears in Item #4 of your Form DS-2019. It will indicate one of the following: Research Scholar, Professor, Short-Term Scholar, Specialist or Student Intern.

Subject/Field Code (also known as your Program Objective): The subject/field code, found in item #4 of the Form DS-2019, specifies the field of research, teaching or consulting in which you will be engaged while in the U.S. It is also known as your program objective because it indicates the primary purpose for which you came to the U.S. The activities you engage in while in this country must be directly related to your program objective.

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

The following documents are very important and must be valid at all times in order for you to maintain lawful J-1 status:

- **Passport** – Should be valid for a minimum of 6 months into the future
- **Form DS-2019** – Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor [J-1] Status
- **U.S. Entry Stamp or Form I-94 Arrival/Departure Record** (either document can serve as proof of U.S. admission in J-1 Exchange Visitor status). Obtain an electronic record of your I-94 from: www.cbp.gov/I94

In addition, the following documents are required each time you wish to enter or re-enter the U.S. after travel abroad:

- **J-1 visa** - Must be valid for any entry or re-entry to U.S. but can expire while you remain in the U.S. Canadian citizens are exempt from the requirement to obtain a visa
- **Proof of I-901 SEVIS Fee payment** – This can be printed from fmjfee.com
- **DS-2019 Travel Signature** – Once you have arrived in the U.S. to begin your program, you will then need a “travel signature” on your DS-2019 in order to return in J-1 status after traveling outside of the U.S.

Please keep your original documents in a safe place. We strongly recommend that you make photocopies or a digital copy of these documents and store them in a location separate from the actual documents. If any of these documents are damaged, lost or stolen, you should replace them as quickly as possible. You should contact your ISSO advisor if you have any questions about the documents or if you need to have them replaced. Please bring all of these documents with you each time you visit the ISSO.

SEVIS – ELECTRONIC REPORTING SYSTEM

DHS utilizes an electronic reporting system called the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) to track international exchange visitors in the U.S. Using SEVIS, all U.S. program sponsors are required to report information on J-1 exchange visitors and J-2 dependents to SEVIS through secure, encrypted Internet transmissions. BU reports only the information required by federal law to the SEVIS system. This includes all the information on your Form DS-2019 and information on “reportable events” that affect your immigration status.
These events include but are not limited to: (1) J-2 dependent information, (2) U.S. residential address & changes to your address, (3) completion or early termination of your research, teaching or consulting activities, (4) change in your program at BU (funding source or amount, BU appointment, etc., (5) program extensions, (6) program sponsor transfers, and (7) violation of J-1 immigration status.

Since SEVIS is an electronic reporting system, it will be very important that your information on record at the ISSO and with other relevant BU offices (Payroll, Human Resources, etc.) be up-to-date. Failure to maintain accurate records with the University may result in technical violations of your status.

WHEN TO CONTACT THE ISSO

To ensure that you maintain lawful immigration status, contact your ISSO advisor if any of the following events occur:

- If there is a change to your legal name, U.S. address, phone number, email, country of citizenship, or immigration status
- If there is a change to the biographical, immigration status, or contact information for your J-2 dependents.
- If there will be a change in ANY terms of your BU appointment/employment (appointment title, job duties, hours worked, salary, change in appointment percentage, etc.).
- If you intend to travel outside the U.S. and need a travel signature from an ISSO staff member on your Form DS-2019 or if you will apply for a new visa before re-entering the U.S.
- Any time you or your J-2 dependents re-enter the U.S. and/or have questions about your U.S. entry stamp or the Form I-94 arrival record. Scholars and dependents should both be granted J-1 or J-2 status for “D/S” or “duration of status.”
- If you receive a Form I-515A temporary admission to the U.S. (usually for 30 days) due to incomplete documentation.
- If you lose any of your immigration documents, or if they are stolen.
- If you will be leaving BU or transferring to another J-1 program sponsor in the U.S.
- If you intend to change your immigration status.
- If you intend to take a leave of absence or depart the U.S. for more than 30 days with the intent to return to your J-1 program at BU.
- If you intend to accept an invitation to engage in a lecture or research activity outside of your authorized program objectives at BU, you must obtain approval from the ISSO in advance.
- If you apply for and/or obtain an approval for a waiver of the two-year home residency requirement.
- If you want to have your dependent spouse and/or children join you in J-2 status.
- If you are contacted by a U.S. government representative about your J-1 status.
- You change of update your medical insurance coverage as required by the J-1 regulations.
- If you are facing charges for any felony or misdemeanor criminal act.

LENGTH OF TIME YOU MAY REMAIN IN THE U.S. IN J-1 STATUS

You may conduct your research, teaching or consulting at BU until you complete your activities or until the end date in Item #3 of your Form DS-2019, whichever occurs first. If you need more time than allowed by your Form DS-2019, your host department must contact the ISSO at least 30 days before the expiration date in Item #3 and submit the required paperwork to request additional time. The period indicated on your Form DS-2019 is dictated by your BU academic appointment. The total length J-1 eligibility that you have in the U.S. will depend on your particular J-1 Exchange Visitor Category and extensions cannot be granted beyond these limits:

Research Scholar - five (5) years
Professor - five (5) years
Student Intern - one (1) year
Specialist - one (1) year
Short-term Scholar - six (6) months.
If you complete your J-1 program objectives before the end date noted on your Form DS-2019, we are required notify SEVIS of your early completion. Your host department should notify the ISSO when you will be leaving by completing the End of Employment/Activity Notification Form, which can be found on the ISSO website. In most cases, J-1 Exchange Visitors may remain in the U.S. for up to 30 days after completing their J-1 program. This ‘grace period’ is intended to allow J-1 scholars to prepare for departure from the country. The 30-day grace period, however, is not intended for travel out of the U.S. with the intent to return. Therefore, once you depart the U.S., your grace period ends.

**J-1 HEALTH INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS AND WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO COMPLY**

All J-1 Exchange Visitors are required to maintain medical insurance that covers the J-1 scholar (and any dependents in the U.S. in J-2 status) for illnesses and accidents during the entire period of the J-1 program. Minimum coverage must meet DOS requirements. Failure to maintain insurance throughout your stay in the U.S. in J status could jeopardize your lawful immigration status. Information about the minimum requirement for insurance coverage can be found at [http://j1visa.state.gov/participants/how-to-apply/eligibility-and-fees/](http://j1visa.state.gov/participants/how-to-apply/eligibility-and-fees/).

Please note that the mandated minimum requirements only cover emergency medical care. Scholars are encouraged to consider purchasing more comprehensive insurance coverage in order to facilitate access to routine healthcare in the U.S.

If you are eligible for insurance coverage based on your employment at BU, please note the following:

- Health insurance plans offered to BU employees do not include coverage for medical evacuation and repatriation. Therefore if you are a BU employee, you will need to purchase a supplemental plan to meet the medical evacuation and repatriation requirements stipulated by DOS. More information about providers can be found on the ISSO website: [http://www.bu.edu/isson/getting-started/medical/](http://www.bu.edu/isson/getting-started/medical/).

- The ISSO recommends that BU employees in the J-1 classification select the BCBS PPO Plan offered to eligible employees as the other option offered does not meet the J-1 requirements related to annual deductibles.

If you are not eligible for BU benefits, you will need to purchase coverage or provide documentation that you have coverage that meets the required minimums. More information can be found on the ISSO website: [http://www.bu.edu/isson/getting-started/medical/](http://www.bu.edu/isson/getting-started/medical/).

All J-1 scholars must complete and submit the following forms to insure compliance with J-1 requirements:


The ISSO must verify receipt of these documents before providing any additional immigration benefits to scholars including, but not limited to travel signatures, program extensions and program transfers.

**CHANGE OF YOUR U.S ADDRESS**

If you move within the U.S., J-1 regulations require that you inform the ISSO of your change of address within 10 days of moving. To inform the ISSO of your updated address, please send an email to [issosch@bu.edu](mailto:issosch@bu.edu) or fill out a request form at the ISSO front desk. The address update request should include your full name, BU ID number and your new address. The ISSO will report your address change to the DHS via SEVIS. We must have record of your physical address, not a Post Office Box. Please note that you will need to inform your host department and the BU Payroll Office separately as the ISSO does not have direct access to your address on record with these offices.
DEPENDENTS AND OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS

If you are married and/or have children, you may be eligible to have your spouse and/or children, under the age of 21, visit you temporarily or join you for the duration of your BU appointment. The ISSO can issue eligible dependents their own independent Form DS-2019 to allow them to apply for a J-2 visa and enter the U.S. with you or at a later time. Your J-2 dependents are allowed to remain in the U.S. for as long as you maintain your legal J-1 status in the U.S. All J-2 dependents must obtain medical insurance to meet the required minimums. J-2 dependents are permitted to study part-time or full-time, either as non-degree or as degree-seeking students, and may also be eligible to apply for independent employment authorization. Please contact your ISSO advisor if you have questions about obtaining immigration forms for dependents and/or the employment authorization process for J-2 dependents.

TRAVEL

We encourage you to contact the ISSO anytime you plan to travel outside of the U.S. This is particularly important as regulations and practices concerning entry and re-entry into the U.S. continue to change. You may experience delays and/or difficulties when applying for visas as politics, your field of research/teaching, your country of citizenship and where and when you are applying can all affect visa processing.

**Travel within the U.S.** - You may travel within the U.S. provided you maintain your lawful J-1 status and have a valid passport, Form DS-2019 and U.S. entry stamp or Form I-94 in your possession.

**Travel outside the U.S. during the dates indicated on your Form DS-2019** – You may leave the U.S. at any time. You are permitted to return in J-1 status if you have a valid passport, valid J-1 visa stamp (Canadian citizens are exempt from the visa requirement) and a current Form DS-2019 that has been signed for travel by an authorized ISSO team member. A travel signature is generally valid for one-year unless your Form DS-2019 is issued for a shorter period. In certain circumstances, the ISSO may recommend a travel signature after six months, particularly for re-entry from Canada, Mexico and adjacent islands.

Please review the entry requirements for the countries to which you will be travelling to as well as any countries you may need to travel through to get to your destination. Just as you require a valid visa to enter the U.S., you may also need a visa to enter another country, even if you are only going for a short visit or transiting through via a connecting flight.

**Application for initial or new J-1 visa during travel** – The J-1 visa in your passport grants you permission to travel to the U.S. and request entry in J-1 status. While your visa must be valid on the date you enter the U.S., you are permitted to legally remain in the U.S. after the expiration date of your J-1 visa, provided you are maintaining J-1 status, hold a valid passport, and have a valid Form DS-2019. If your J-1 visa expires while you are in the U.S., you will need to apply for a new visa during your next trip abroad, as it will be required in order to re-enter the U.S.

If you need to apply for a J-1 visa, you should inform the ISSO before travel. In certain cases, security checks and supplemental visa application forms may significantly delay your visa application process. Visa applications can take time, particularly during certain times of year so we recommend that you plan in advance and leave enough time to schedule the interview and complete the visa process. [Note: Canadian citizens are not required to obtain a visa to enter the U.S. but must follow all other required procedures to enter]. If you are planning to apply for a visa in Canada or a country other than your home country, please consult with your ISSO advisor.

- Please refer to the ISSO website at [http://www.bu.edu/isso/travel-visas/](http://www.bu.edu/isso/travel-visas/) for up-to-date travel tips and information on travel and visa applications.

- If your J-1 visa is expired or if you have changed to J-1 from a different immigration classification and plan to travel to Canada or Mexico, you may be eligible to return to the U.S. even if you do not have a valid J-1 visa, provided your visit does not exceed 30 days and your meet other eligibility for “automatic visa revalidation.” Consult with the ISSO about this provision prior to travel.
Once you enter the U.S., please verify that your arrival was properly noted in the electronic system:
https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home and notify your ISSO advisor immediately if there are any discrepancies in your travel record.

**Form I-515A issued at the Port of Entry upon entry to the U.S.** – If a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officer determines your documentation is incomplete when entering the U.S., you may be issued a Form I-515A and an I-94 card with a date-specific status end date. These documents will grant you temporary admission to the U.S. (generally for 30 days). You must submit the required response and documents to the Form I-515A prior to the expiration date of your I-94 card to prove that you entered the U.S. lawfully. If you receive a Form I-515A, you must contact the ISSO immediately to ensure that proper procedures are followed in a timely manner. Failure to submit the proper original documentation prior to the expiration date of your I-94 card will result in termination of both your J-1 status and your SEVIS record.

**CHANGES TO THE TERMS OF YOUR BU APPOINTMENT**

J-1 Scholars may be sponsored by BU for paid or unpaid academic activities. The terms of your J-1 sponsorship at BU are specific to your department, position title, duties, funding amount and source, location of work and percentage effort worked (full-time vs. part-time). If you expect any aspect of BU appointment to change, you and/or your host department must contact the ISSO in advance. It may be necessary for the ISSO to amend your SEVIS record to allow for those changes, if they are permitted under both J-1 regulations and BU sponsorship policy.

Employment at BU and acceptance of a salary or non-salary payment (such as stipends, honoraria, per diem, or other types of remuneration) is only permitted if your Form DS-2019 indicates payment from the “Current Program Sponsor.” If your Form DS-2019 does not list BU as a source of funding, you are not eligible to receive compensation from BU until/unless the ISSO amends your Form DS-2019 to reflect a financial update.

**EMPLOYMENT OR PAYMENT OUTSIDE OF THE TERMS OF YOUR J-1 PROGRAM**

Scholars in J-1 status are not permitted to engage in employment for any employer other than BU. However, J-1 exchange visitors in the Professor, Research Scholar or Short-Term Scholar categories may engage in occasional lectures and short-term consultations for institutions other than BU, provided they receive prior approval from the ISSO. Upon approval by the ISSO, federal immigration regulations also permit J-1 scholars in the noted categories to receive payment for such activities. The activity must support, and not interfere with your original program activity, and may not delay completion of the original objective. Authorizations from the ISSO are date, salary and activity specific. Contact your ISSO advisor for information about this unique J-1 provision.

**TAKING CLASSES AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY**

You are permitted to enroll in individual classes while engaged in your J-1 exchange visitor program at BU as long as you continue with your original J-1 program objective without change. Being admitted to a full-time degree program may be contradictory to the J-1 status you now hold. Please consult with your ISSO advisor if considering this option. Tuition remission may be available to J-1 scholars who are also full-time employees of BU. Please consult with Human Resources for more information (http://www.bu.edu/hr/).

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE AND EXTENDED STAYS OUTSIDE THE U.S.**

While in J-1 status, you must maintain your appointment at BU as per the terms of your SEVIS record until you have completed your appointment or have otherwise resigned or been terminated from your position. Interruptions to your J-1 program may have serious consequences to your immigration status and employment at BU so it is important that you contact the ISSO in advance so that we can determine how your J-1 status may be affected.

If you have been approved for a leave of absence, the ISSO will need detailed information about your specific intentions and location during that time so that we can provide accurate information regarding your immigration status during your approved leave. In addition, if you plan to be outside of the U.S. for a period of 30 days or longer, but intend to return to the U.S. to resume the same activity at BU, please speak with your ISSO advisor. We will require clarification regarding the purpose of the extended absence in order to evaluate whether or not your SEVIS record can remain active during this time.
COMPLETION OF YOUR J-1 PROGRAM AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Please inform the ISSO of your departure by completing and submitting an End of Employment or Activity Notification Form, which can be found on the ISSO website. Note that if you are leaving the U.S. earlier than the end date indicated on your Form DS-2019, we can provide you with an amended document to reflect the earlier completion date.

**Grace Period**: Upon completion of your J-1 program at BU, you have up to 30 days to remain in the U.S. and during this “grace period” must depart the U.S. unless you have taken some action to remain lawfully. The grace period is not intended as an extension of your J-1 program objective and thus, travel out of the U.S. with the intent to return is not permitted. The grace period also applies to any J-2 dependents.

**Transfer to another J-1 Program Sponsor**: In some cases, scholars may plan to continue their academic objective under the J-1 sponsorship of another program sponsor in the U.S. If you plan to continue your J-1 program elsewhere, we may be able to transfer your SEVIS record to the new program sponsor, provided the new program sponsor is approved by DOS to sponsor scholars in the same J-1 category.

**Change to another non-immigrant immigration classification**: From time to time, scholars who are completing their J-1 exchange program may require additional time in the U.S. to pursue other personal or professional goals, and may be eligible to apply for change of nonimmigrant status in the U.S. J-1 scholars who are subject to the Two-Year Home Residence Requirement – 212(e), discussed below, are ineligible for a change of status in the U.S. If you are considering a change or status, please consult your ISSO advisor well in advance to review your eligibility for this benefit and current DHS processing times for change of status applications.

**ELIGIBILITY TO RETURN TO THE U.S.**

Your participation in a J-1 program in the U.S. may affect your eligibility for participation in future academic activities and/or employment in the U.S. if certain factors apply. Please speak with your ISSO advisor to determine what issues may apply to your particular situation.

**Two-year Home Residence Requirement – 212(e)** - The J-1 Exchange Visitor Program was established to promote mutual understanding and cultural and educational exchange, with the assumption that participants would return to their home countries and share knowledge gained during the program. In certain instances, visitors in J status are required to return and reside in their home country or country of legal permanent residence for two years before they may return to the U.S. in H, L, or K classification, or as a lawful permanent resident (“green card” holder). In addition, scholars who are subject to this requirement are not eligible to apply for change to any non-immigrant classification from within the U.S.

Individuals are subject to the two-year home residence requirement – also known as 212(e) – if they:

- came to the U.S. to participate in medical residency under J-1 Alien Physical category OR
- received direct government funds for the purposes of international exchange OR
- came to the U.S. to participate in an activity designated as being critical demand in their home country, according to the “Exchange Visitor Skills List.”

Please note that receiving a salary that is funded out of a government grant that is given for the purposes of conducting research does not make you subject to this provision. Most BU salaries are funded by grants from the U.S. government, however, since this funding is given to BU to do research it does not make a person subject to the two-year home residence requirement.

In limited circumstances, exchange visitors who are subject to 212(e) may apply for a waiver directly from the Department of State if they meet certain conditions. In addition, exchange visitors can request an ‘Advisory Opinion’ if subjectivity to the requirement is unclear. Your ISSO advisor can provide you with more information.

Please note that the Two-Year Home Residence Requirement can affect scholars in any J category, as well as any J-2 dependents.
12-Month Bar for Initial J-1 Research Scholar and Professor Categories - Prospective scholars who previously participated in any J exchange program (including as a J-2 dependent) are ineligible for sponsorship in the J-1 Research Scholar or Professor categories for a period of 12 months after ending the previous J program. An exception to the 12-month bar exists for scholars whose prior exchange program was less than six months in duration and for scholars whose prior exchange was under the J-1 Short-Term Scholar category.

24-Month Bar on Repeat Participation in J-1 Research Scholar and Professor Categories – Upon completion of the program objectives, J-1 Exchange Visitors in either the Research Scholar or Professor categories become subject to a 24-month (two-year) prohibition from returning to the U.S. to commence a new J-1 exchange visitor program in the Research Scholar or Professor category. If you anticipate that you will continue your research affiliation with BU or another exchange program sponsor after completing your current appointment period as a J-1 Research Scholar or Professor, we would advise that you discuss your long-term plans with your ISSO advisor prior to ending your J-1 SEVIS immigration record.

This prohibition does not apply to scholars in other J-1 classifications, such as J-1 Short-Term Scholar, J-1 Specialist or the J-1 student categories. This bar on repeat participation is not the same as the Two-Year Home Residence Requirement – 212(e).

For further clarification on factors affecting J-1 program participation, please refer to the comparison chart on the following page.

CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATING IMMIGRATION STATUS

Immigration laws in the U.S. impose severe penalties if you fail to comply with your immigration responsibilities, or fail to obtain a required registration or employment permission in advance. Maintenance of accurate records at the ISSO and in the University Information System (UIS) is especially important since details of your status are reported automatically to DHS through SEVIS.

Any violation of your J-1 status, including termination of a SEVIS record, may result in accrual of unlawful presence time which may lead to removal from the U.S. (formerly “deportation”), to inadmissibility, or to a long-term bar from the US of up to 10 years.

You should work closely with the ISSO staff to make certain that you comply with all J-1 regulations, and take immediate action to remedy any status violations as quickly as possible after they occur.

In the event of a status violation, your ISSO advisor will discuss your legal options – including applying to USCIS for reinstatement or making a new entry to the U.S. to reestablish lawful status. The ISSO may also refer you to an immigration attorney for legal advice.

As your J-1 program sponsor, Boston University ISSO is always pleased to provide you with additional information, advising and assistance regarding your immigration status so that you may achieve your program goals at Boston University.

A list of International Scholar Advisors (all approved J-1 Alternate Responsible Officers) can be found at: http://www.bu.edu/isso/contact/scholar-advising/.

We look forward to working with you during your time on campus!
### Eligibility Factors Affecting J Program Participation

**J-1 Two-Year Home Residence Requirement 212(e)**

**Versus 12-Month and 24-Month Bars**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who it affects</th>
<th>Two-Year Home Residence Requirement – 212(e)</th>
<th>12-Month Bar</th>
<th>24-Month Bar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who it affects</td>
<td>May affect participants in any category of J-1 exchange visitor including J-1 Professor, Research Scholar, Short-Term Scholar, Student Intern, Specialist, Student, as well as J-2 dependents. Exchange Visitor may be subject to the two-year home residence requirement if:</td>
<td>Affects prospective scholars seeking J-1 Research Scholar or Professor classification who have previously held another J classification (including J-2 dependent). An exception exists for any time spent in the U.S. in the past 12 months in J-1 Short-Term Scholar classification or for cases where the previous J exchange program lasted less than six months.</td>
<td>Applies only to J-1 Research Scholars or Professors who have completed their period of exchange. This includes:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Exchange visitor receives financial support from U.S. or foreign government</td>
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<td>• Research Scholars or Professors who have used the full five years of maximum eligibility in this classification or</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Exchange visitor’s home country’s government has a Skills List that includes their profession or field of research/study</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Research Scholars or Professors who have ended their period of exchange prior to the end of their five years of maximum eligibility.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Exchange visitor has come to the U.S. to seek graduate medical training in J-1 Alien Physician category under sponsorship of the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is prohibited</td>
<td>Exchange Visitor is not eligible for H, L, K or immigrant (permanent resident) visa and cannot apply for change of nonimmigrant status within the U.S. (except to A or G status) until the two-year home residence requirement has either been satisfied in the country of the exchange visitor’s last residence, or unless the requirement has been waived by favorable recommendation of the U.S. Department of State and by approval of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.</td>
<td>Prospective J-1 Research Scholar or Professor is not eligible to begin new period of exchange for a period of 12 months (one year) after completion of any previous J exchange program (with the exception of exchange visitors whose last exchange program falls under the Short-Term Scholars category as discussed above).</td>
<td>Scholar who has completed a period of exchange as a J-1 Research Scholar or Professor may not return to U.S. in J-1 Research Scholar or Professor category for 24 months (two years).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is not prohibited</td>
<td>The Exchange Visitor may be permitted to depart and return to the U.S. in other nonimmigrant classification, such as F-1 student, B-1/B-2 visitor, O-1 or TN prior to satisfying or waiving 212(e). May also return in another J-1 classification, if no bar applies. Time spent in the U.S. in other classifications, however, does not count toward fulfillment of two-year home residence requirement.</td>
<td>This bar does not prohibit entry to the U.S. in other immigration categories.</td>
<td>This bar does not prohibit entry to the U.S. in other immigration categories.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>