

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT J-1 VISA

What is the benefit of having a J-1 visa under Fulbright Grant?

The Fulbright Program offers worldwide prestige, recognition and tangible benefits such as pre-academic training and enrichment. The J exchange visitor program through which Fulbright students are sponsored indicates that you are a “guest” of the US Department of State. On your host campus, you are recognized as a “sponsored student” and often receive special treatment and support. The sponsoring agency also takes care of all fees and the submission of information on your status to the Department of Homeland Security, including extensions of stay.

Can I return to the US before the completion of two-year home residency requirement?

The two-year home residency requirement only applies if you want to return to the US on an H or L visa, or as a permanent resident (green card holder). You may return to the US during this period in many non-immigrant visa categories, such as tourist, student, exchange visitor on another program, or on a business visa.

Why do I have to return to my home country upon completion of the Fulbright grant?

The intent of the Fulbright Program is for you to return home and share the skills and experience you have gained through your US education. However, this does not prevent you from pursuing career options anywhere in the world.

Can I get a work experience in my field in the US?

The Fulbright Program allows for a period of post-program employment directly related to your field of study. This is referred to as academic training. The length of academic training is dependent upon the length of your academic program as long as it does not exceed 18 months or if there are no specific country policy restricting the allowable time.

Can my spouse work in the US with J-2 visa?

A J-2 spouse is eligible to apply for authorization directly to the US Citizenship and Immigration Services. This is not available to F-2 spouses.

Am I eligible to accept post-doctoral training in my field?

The majority of doctoral students on the Fulbright Program are sponsored for up to 5 years. Upon reaching the 5 year limit, you are eligible to request a transfer of visa sponsorship from Fulbright to your university. This is viewed as a continuation of your J-1 visa status and as such you may request academic training from your new sponsor upon completion of your academic studies.