

April – June 2023

# J-1 News for

J-1 Exchange Visitor Quarterly Newsletter



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The purpose of the Exchange Visitor (EV) Program is to provide visitors to the U.S. with an opportunity to participate in educational and cultural programs and to share their experiences upon their return home, as well as to encourage Americans to participate in educational and cultural programs in their country.



## DID YOU KNOW...

Your **I-94 arrival/departure record** is evidence that you have been admitted to the United States in “J-1 status”. The I-94 identifies the date and class (J-1) of your admission to the US, as well as the expiration date of your period of authorized stay. For EVs on a J-1 visa, the period of authorized stay is duration of status, also known as D/S, which is "stamped" on your visa. You and your dependents will have a new I-94 with each new entry to the USA, so please keep all new I-94s for your records and provide a copy to the ISSS office, as this is the document that identifies that you have a legal status in the US. Please visit the [official I-94 website](#) for more information on the I-94 and how to access your most recent I-94 record.



## DID YOU ALSO KNOW...

If you will end your J-1 program 15 days earlier than expected based on the program end date on your most current DS-2019, you must notify ISSS. You can do so by submitting a **Shorten Program Request** E-form through [UAtlas](#). For example, if the current program end date on your DS-2019 is 06/30/2023 and you decide to leave 06/01/2023, you will need to submit the E-form because you are leaving more than 15 days earlier than expected. If you leave on 06/20/2023, you will not need to submit the E-form.

### **Please Note:**

- The end date on your DS-2019 will be amended to match the last day of your research/teaching program, and a new DS-2019 will be issued. It is important to keep a copy of all DS-2019s in order to have record of your J-1 program; therefore, it is important to pick up your final DS-2019.
- If you end your program early, you are still eligible for a **30-day grace period**. This period is not for study or research, but for travel and tourism throughout the U.S. If you depart the U.S. during or after the end of your 30-day grace period, you will not be able to re-enter the U.S. on your current J-1 visa.

# CHANGES TO A DS-2019 AND SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

The U.S. Department of State, the government entity that has oversight of the **J-1 Exchange Visitor Program**, has announced that it will permit designated **sponsors**, such as the **University of Utah**, to **digitally sign** and **electronically transmit** a **DS-2019**, also known as a Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor Status, effective **April 27, 2023**. The new regulation will reduce costs, improve efficiencies for exchange programs, and streamline Department of State exchange visitor visa processing.

For **the initial visit** to the US, the **University of Utah** will issue a DS-2019 to a prospective exchange visitor, who will, along with their spouse and minor dependents, **apply for a J-1 or J-2 visa** at a [U.S. embassy or consulate](#). If approved for a visa, an EV and their spouse or dependent children will present their [DS-2019](#) at a U.S. port of entry (air, land, or sea port) as part of their petition for admission (for J-1 or J-2 “status”) to the United States.

For exchange visitors **currently at the U**, a **new DS-2019** can be digitally signed and sent electronically when a DS-2019 **is created or updated** for extensions, changes of site, funding updates, adding dependents, and for any other reason.

Until now, the University had to physically mail or ship an original paper DS-2019 in every case, even updates. With this change, the University may continue to physically mail original signed DS-2019s OR take advantage of **two new options**:

- Print and physically sign DS-2019s in ink, then scan and save (as a PDF), and then electronically transmit (e.g., via email). The new rule also eliminates the requirement that sponsors sign the Form DS-2019 in blue ink.
- Use digital signature software to sign DS-2019s and then electronically transmit.

We feel this will create a more efficient way to send share a DS-2019 to our exchange visitors. Please contact us at [internationalscholars@utah.edu](mailto:internationalscholars@utah.edu)

# FUN FAMILY THINGS TO DO DURING THE SPRING...



## The Mighty 5<sup>®</sup>

If you love nature and want to experience the great outdoors, visit one of the 5 national parks in the state of Utah, known as the [Mighty 5](#).



The United States has a total of 61 national parks, but 5 of them are located in Utah, and all are within

a ½ day drive of Salt Lake City. Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity before you leave



## PLEASE REMEMBER TO ALWAYS...

- Update ISSS of any change in your physical address, phone number, and e-mail address within 10 calendar days of the change through [UAtlas](#).
- Request a travel signature on your DS-2019 if you plan to depart the U.S. and return to continue your exchange program. When you submit your DS-2019 for a travel signature, we will provide a [travel survey](#) for you to complete. The travel survey lists information helpful to know to successfully re-enter the U.S.
- Maintain health insurance that [meets the requirements](#) of the Exchange Visitor Program for the entire duration of your stay as indicated by the begin date and end date listed on your DS-2019.
- Visit the [ISSS website](#) for information and resources related to your J-1 visa.



Connecting global leaders,  
creating lasting impact.



## J-1 Exchange Visitor Program

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