



UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
FOUNDED 1830

TO:
FROM: Nancy Colón
International Taxation Specialist
DATE:
RE: Explanation of the DS I-2019 Form

US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) administers the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) and acts as the bridge for varied government organizations which have an interest in information on foreign students. SEVP uses web-based technology, the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) to track and monitor schools and programs, students, exchange visitors and their dependents throughout the duration of approved participation within the U.S. education system. SEVP collects, maintains and provides the information so that only legitimate foreign students or exchange visitors gain entry to the United States. The result is an easily accessible information system that provides timely information to the Department of State, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The Exchange Visitor Program is administered by the Department of State. At the conclusion of their program Exchange Visitor participants are expected to return to their home countries to utilize the experience and skills they have acquired while in the United States. The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) provides the exchange visitor (J) nonimmigrant visa category for persons who are approved to participate in exchange visitor programs in the United States.

To Explain:

1. The DS-2019 is the form J-1 students and scholars use to obtain their J visa and enter the United States. J-1 students and scholars must possess a DS-2019 form. The DS-2019 form may be issued by the University of Richmond or another sponsoring organization (for example, a scholarship organization, U.S. Consulate, etc.) The exchange visitor must complete the program by the end date shown on the form DS-2019.
2. In carrying out the responsibilities of the Exchange Visitor Program, the Department designates public and private entities to act as exchange sponsors. Designated sponsoring organizations facilitate the entry of foreign nationals into the United States as exchange visitors to complete the objectives of one of the exchange visitor program.

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3. Before an exchange visitor can apply at an American Embassy or Consulate for a J visa, the exchange visitor must apply, meet the requirements, and be accepted for one of the Exchange Visitor Program categories through a designated sponsoring organization. If you are accepted as a participant in an exchange program, the sponsor will provide the information and documents necessary to apply for the J visa to enter the US.
4. All exchange visitors, including their spouses and dependents must be registered in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), an Internet-based system that maintains accurate and current information on non-immigrant students and exchange visitors and their dependents (J-2 visa holders). The program sponsor is responsible for entering the information for the DS 2019 Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor Status into SEVIS.
5. DHS regulations require all J exchange visitors to enter the U.S. 30 days or less in advance of the applicant's program start date as shown on the Form DS-2019. Please consider this date carefully when making travel plans to the U.S. The 30-day limitation does not apply to current exchange participants who are returning to continue with their exchange program.
6. When an exchange visitor travels outside of the United States, travel authorization will need to be obtained on the DS-2019. The signature must be obtained from the Responsible Officer designated by your sponsoring organization (for example, if your DS-2019 was issued by UR, the Office of International Education must sign your DS-2019 for travel).

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