



## INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE J-1 NON-DEGREE STUDENTS

### ABOUT THE J-1 EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM

The J-1 Exchange Visitor Program, also called "[BridgeUSA](#)," was established by the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (The Fulbright-Hays Act) and is administered by the U.S. Department of State to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchanges.

We encourage all J-1 visa applicants to review the BridgeUSA website linked above, as well as the Department of State [Exchange Visitor Program Welcome Brochure](#).

### STUDENT NON-DEGREE CATEGORY

1. Fall under the "College/University Student" group of J-1 categories
2. Minimum program length of 3 weeks
3. Maximum program length of 2 years
4. Used for Non-Degree students only
5. Subject to the 12-Month [Bar](#) if program length is longer than 6 months
  1. *This may impact you if you have plans to return as a J-1 exchange visitor in the future to conduct research in the Research Scholar category.*

### J-1 VISA ELIGIBILITY

In order to qualify for a J-1 visa and be eligible to request a Form DS-2019 from Hartford International University, prospective J-1 visa applicants must:

1. Be financed directly or indirectly by the U.S. government, the government of their home country, an international organization of which the United States is a member by treaty or statute, or supported substantially by funding from any source other than personal or family funds (**greater than 50% of your funding must be from non-personal or family sources**).
2. Participate in a program that has an agreement between the U.S. government and a foreign government, or according to a written agreement between Hartford International University and foreign educational institutions, Hartford International University and a foreign government, or a state or local government in the United States, and a foreign government.
3. Be able to demonstrate the required amount of funding for the **entire duration of your program** in order to be eligible for a DS-2019.
4. Be currently enrolled in a degree program abroad (Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctoral level) and have been invited by a faculty member at Hartford International University.



## Hartford International

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Additionally, prospective J-1 Non-degree Students must complete a J-1 Non-Degree Application, which requires the following:

- English proficiency Scores
- A valid passport
- A research proposal or personal statement
- A copy of a current transcript
- Proof of funding

For an overview of the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program, please visit [j1visa.state.gov](http://j1visa.state.gov).

### APPLICATION PROCESS

1. The Faculty Sponsor submits to the International Students and Scholars Advisor a [Prescribed Course of Study](#).
2. Home University submits a letter of attestation/agreement along with the name(s) of the prospective students.
3. The International Students and Scholars Advisor invites prospective students to complete the J-1 Non-Degree Student Application.
4. International Students and Scholars Advisor issues a Letter of Acceptance signed by the Academic Dean/President and Faculty Sponsor.
5. Student submits financial documentation that equals or exceeds the cost of attendance.
6. International Students and Scholars Advisor issues a password-protected DS-2019.

### APPLYING FOR A J-1 VISA

1. Receive and sign your DS-2019.
2. Check your passport's validity. It must be valid for at least six months into the future. If not, you will need to submit proof that you have applied to renew your passport before a DS-2019 is issued.
3. Pay the [Student and Exchange Visitor Information System \(SEVIS\) fee](#)
4. Gather supporting [documents for the visa interview](#)
5. Make an appointment at the [nearest U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate](#) for a visa interview. The U.S. Department of State has [published estimated Global Visa Wait Times on its website](#).

Remember that the DS-2019 does not guarantee a U.S. exchange visa. At your interview, you will be asked about your study plans, ties to your home country, future career objectives, and how you will fund your education in the U.S.