

Below are the requirements for all J-1 Exchange Visitors:

- Intent to pursue appropriate activity (such as research or teaching)
- Intent to return to home country (as determined by the U.S. consular officer)
- Sufficient funding for program – minimum \$1,350/month
- Appropriate background for program activities
- Adequate English proficiency (as determined by the host department or by Marian University)
 - For Exchange Visitors who will be teaching: TOEFL IBT 110, TOEFL Paper 600, or IELTS 7.0
 - For Exchange Visitor will be researching or consulting: an interview with the Office of International Programs or a signed document from the host department

Categories and limitations of J-1 Exchange Visitors

J-1 Research Scholar/Professor

- Limited to a maximum stay of 5 years to engage in research and/or teaching
- Independently-funded scholars are limited to 1 year of sponsorship with eligibility for annual extensions
- J-1 Research Scholars/Professors may **NOT** hold or be candidates for tenure
- Must have a specific objective such as to conduct research, teach, or consult
- 12/24-month bars may prevent J-1 Research Scholar/Professor sponsorship of those who have previously held J visa

J-1 Short-Term Scholar

- Limited strictly to 6 months; Short-Term Scholars may not extend stay beyond 6 months
- 12/24-month bars do not apply to J-1 Short-Term Scholars who wish to return in J-1 Professor/Research Scholar category

J-1 Specialist

- Limited to a maximum stay of 12 months
- J-1 Specialist may not fill a permanent or long-term position of employment in the United States
- 12-month bar applies to J-1 Specialists who wish to return in J-1 Professor/Research Scholar category

J-1 Restrictions/12 and 24-month Bars

212 (e) Home Country Residency Requirement

This requirement states that if you have received funding from your home government or the U.S. government, or you are from a country on the U.S. Department of State "skills list", you may be subject to the Foreign Residency Requirement. If you are subject to the requirement, you are unable to change your visa status in the United States. You are also unable to obtain an H, L, and K visa or Permanent Residency status until you have spent an aggregate of two years in your home country. The requirement, however, does not prevent you from

reentering the United States under other visa categories, like F-student or B-tourist. Please see the U.S. Department of State's website for information on the [waiver process](#).

12-Month Bar

J-1 Scholars in the Research and Professor categories may not have been in the United States in J-1 visa status for any part of the 12-month period preceding the start date of their program as indicated on the DS-2019. The 12-month bar is waived if the participant was present in the United States for less than 6 months.

24-Month Bar

J-1 Scholars in the Research and Professor categories are not eligible to return to the United States in the Professor and Research category for 24 months immediately following J program completion.

Funding Requirements

Potential Exchange Visitors must provide evidence of sufficient funding for their entire length of stay. The Office of International Programs requires proof of at least \$1,350 per month for the scholar and at least \$500 for each accompanying dependent (spouse or unmarried children under 21 years old). Financial support may come from Marian University, the Exchange Visitor's home university, U.S. or foreign governments, personal funding or a combination of them.

English Language Requirements

The required language skills and proficiency level depend on the Exchange Visitors program activities. If the Exchange Visitor will teach a class at Marian University, they must meet or exceed a certain proficiency on an English language exam (TOEFL IBT 110, TOEFL Paper 600, or IELTS 7.0). If the Exchange Visitor will be a research scholar only, they will have an interview with the Office of International Programs (OIP) or present a signed document from the host department confirming proficiency for the intended program activities.

Steps of Exchange Visitor Process

The following steps are taken after the hosting arrangement has been determined between the international scholar and Marian University faculty member.

- International Scholar submits a "J-1 Applicant Request" and required documentation as noted on form
- Host department submits "J-1 Host Department Request" and Appointment Letter (sample online)
- The Office of International Programs (OIP) will review the requests. If the International Scholar meets the eligibility requirements, the OIP will issue a DS-2019(s) for the scholar (and dependents) to apply for J-1 Exchange Visitor status at the nearest U.S. Embassy.
- The OIP, host faculty member, and hosting department will correspond with the Exchange Visitor to make arrangements for research/lecture/consultation activities and pre-arrival matters like housing, airport pick-up, and orientation to campus.