

F-1 vs. J-1 visa

There are two full time student visa categories, F-1 and J-1. The majority of international students come into the U.S. on an F-1 student visa. However, some students have the option to enter on a J-1 student visa. A student may choose or be assigned based on their eligibility and their long term plans. Definitions for each type are outlined below.

	<u>F-1 (Form I-20)</u>	<u>J-1 (Form DS-2019)</u>
Eligibility	No eligibility requirements on sources of funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have a substantial portion of funding from a source other than personal. This funding might come from Kansas State University, the home institution or government or a sponsoring organization. Kansas State's definition of substantial is at least 50 percent. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be participating in a written exchange agreement (i.e. exchange student)
Off-Campus Employment	<p><u>Curricular Practical Training-</u> alternate work/study, internship, or any other type of required internship or practicum. Student must have been enrolled full-time for at least one academic year before he/she is eligible to for CPT. See http://www.k-state.edu/iss/current/cpt.html for more information.</p> <p><u>Optional Practical Training-</u> temporary employment for practical training directly related to the student's major area of study. If authorized, the employment you obtain must be commensurate with your educational level. This type of practical training can be used prior to the completion of your program of study or upon graduation. The standard OPT allows students to apply for 12 months of employment authorization per progressive educational level. Student must have been enrolled full-time for at least one academic year before he/she is eligible to for OPT. See http://www.k-state.edu/iss/current/opt.html for more information.</p>	<p><u>Academic Training-</u>work, training, or experience related to a student's field of study. Training may be paid or unpaid and can take place either on- or off-campus. J-1 students may be eligible to apply for up to 18 and in some cases 36 months. The total training period may not exceed the amount of time spent in a full course of study. See http://www.k-state.edu/iss/current/academictraining.html for more information.</p>
Dependents	Dependents (F-2s) are not eligible for employment and cannot enroll in classes.	Dependents (J-2s) are eligible to apply for permission to work in the U.S. through the duration of the J-1's stay. This permission is obtained through an application that is submitted to USCIS. J-2s can enroll in classes either part-time or full-time.

<p>Home Residency Requirement</p>	<p>No home residency requirement.</p>	<p>Some Exchange Visitors and their dependents may be subject to what is called the two-year home residency requirement. This "two-year residence" requirement applies if the Exchange Visitor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receives funding in whole or in part from the U.S. or home country government; or • From a country where his/her specific skills are needed, as determined by the "Exchange Visitor Skills List" as determined by Department of State (DoS); or • Is a Medical doctor who came to the U.S. for advanced medical education or training. <p>Those who are subject to this requirement may not change their status to another nonimmigrant classification within the U.S. (except to an A or G status), are not eligible to become permanent residents, and cannot obtain an H-1B or L visa until they have lived in the country of last legal permanent residence for two years after completing their J-1 program or been approved for a waiver.</p>
<p>Grace Period</p>	<p>Permitted to remain in the U.S. a maximum of 60 days after completion of program/expiration of I-20 or expiration of any OPT (Optional Practical Training), whichever is later.</p>	<p>Permitted to remain in the U.S. a maximum of 30 days after expiration of DS-2019. This could be the completion of program or of AT (Academic Training).</p>
<p>Program Changes</p>	<p>With F-1 status it is much easier to change majors or programs of study and go down a level of education (e.g. from PhD to Master's) if necessary.</p>	<p>Changing majors/program of study or category is difficult. Can only progress in level of education (i.e. from Master's to PhD).</p>
<p>Insurance Requirements</p>	<p>Required by the Kansas Board of Regents to have health insurance coverage.</p>	<p>Required by the Department of State (DoS) and the Kansas Board of Regents. For minimum requirements per the DoS http://www.k-state.edu/iss/j-1/responsibilities.html .</p>

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