School of Communication Visiting Scholars/Visiting Fellows Program

The Visiting Scholars/Visiting Fellows Program is designed for visiting scholars and leaders in the fields of Communication – including Communication Studies, Journalism, Strategic Communication/Public Relations, and Film and Digital Media – who have a well-defined postgraduate study agenda.

The School of Communication will accept a limited number of scholars/fellows each academic year. Accepted scholars/fellows are responsible for securing their own funding for all travel, research, and living expenses for the duration of their stay. The School of Communication and American University provide no funding for visiting scholars/fellows.

Applications will be reviewed by a committee of SOC faculty. All applications must be received by March 15 and scholars/fellows will be notified by April 1; scholars/fellows will be accepted only once per year. The usual start for visiting scholars/fellows will be the beginning of the next academic year (usually late August.) Scholars/fellows may apply for visiting status for up to one academic year; shorter visits also are possible.

Visiting scholars/fellows who want to take classes must pay all tuition and fees; classes may not be audited.

Candidates must provide the following to Aisha Green at aisha@american.edu

1. Proof of an advanced degree from an accredited or government recognized institution.
2. All necessary data, including financial documentation, for J-1 Visa application as directed by the Dean’s Office.
3. Demonstrated proficiency in the English language.
4. A 1,500 word statement defining research needs, why American University/School of Communication is the best place for study, and how the proposed research relates to career goals.
5. Agreement from an SOC faculty member(s) to serve as a mentor during the visit.
6. Three letters of recommendation from professional colleagues.
7. Evidence of an established academic or professional career.
8. Current resume or curriculum vitae.
9. Evidence of insurance coverage as required by immigration upon arrival at American University.

NB: Final program participation is contingent on successful appointment by the University, identification of the faculty mentor, and approval of visa application.

Participants’ responsibilities include:

1. Having a clearly defined research agenda.
2. Meeting with his/her assigned mentor on a regularly scheduled basis.
3. Completing a research project or research paper worthy of post-graduate level studies and presenting findings at an open forum.
4. Taking an active role in the intellectual and professional agenda of the school, including presenting guest lectures and attending seminars and conferences related to the research agenda.
5. Affiliation with a sponsoring agency.
6. Current affiliation with an institution such as a University or professional organization.

The Visiting Scholars/Visiting Fellows Program provides the following:
1. Appointment as a Visiting Scholar/Visiting Fellow, which includes access to American University facilities, such as the Library.
2. An opportunity to engage in research utilizing the many resources in Washington, D.C.
3. An opportunity to interact with faculty at American University and with experts at other Washington, D.C., area institutions.
4. Scholar welcome dinner.

SOC/AU does not provide the following:
1. Housing
2. Meals
3. Transportation
4. Office space or telephone
5. Computer equipment
6. Conference fees or fees related to individual research or projects, such as computer software
7. Health insurance
Exchange Visitor Application Form
Request for the Form DS-2019, Certification of Eligibility For J-1 Visa

(This Form Must Be Completed by the Prospective Exchange Visitor)

To avoid processing delays in your immigration documents, please complete all sections of this form and attach a copy of your passport (and your dependents’ passports if applicable). Please also attach the appropriate financial documentation and submit this form to your J-1 coordinator at your earliest convenience.

PART I — BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
Please fill in all the fields. This information will appear on your DS-2019; therefore, it must match your passport information exactly.

NAME (exactly as in machine readable zone on passport):
Last: ___________________________ First: ___________________________ Middle: ___________________________
(Multiple last names if applicable)

GENDER: [ ☐ ] Female [ ☐ ] Male

DATE of birth: __________ CITY of birth: __________ COUNTRY of birth: __________
(month/date/year)

CITIZENSHIP: __________________________ COUNTRY of Legal Permanent Residency: __________________________

OCCUPATION (in home country): __________________________________________

EMPLOYER (in home country): Government [ ☐ ] (Specify): __________________________________________
[ ☐ ] Private (Specify): __________________________________________

E-MAIL: __________________________ TELEPHONE (home country): __________________________
(country code - city code - telephone number)

PART II — EXCHANGE VISITOR’S PROPOSED ACADEMIC ACTIVITY

A. Requested Exchange Visitor Category:
[ ☐ ] Professor [ ☐ ] Research Scholar [ ☐ ] Short-Term Scholar [ ☐ ] Specialist [ ☐ ] Student Intern
(Less than 6 months)

B. Length of Stay:
Begin Date: __________ End Date: __________
(month/date/year) (month/date/year)
(Please note that you will not be able to enter the U.S. after the begin date of your program. You will be able to enter up to 30 days before the begin date, and to remain in the U.S. up to 30 days after the end date.)

C. Description of proposed academic activity at American University as it will appear on your DS-2019:
(please limit your response to 35 words or less)

________________________________________

form updated 12/2014
D. Have you been in the U.S. within the past two years as J-1 or J-2?  
*If yes, please complete the section below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMMIGRATION STATUS</th>
<th>START DATE</th>
<th>END DATE</th>
<th>IF J-1, PLEASE INDICATE CATEGORY (SEE PART II)</th>
<th>IF J-1, PLEASE INDICATE NAME OF PROGRAM SPONSOR (AU, IIE, FULBRIGHT, AMIDEAST, etc.)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example: J1 Exchange Visitor</td>
<td>Entered U.S. on 09/01/09</td>
<td>Left U.S. on 12/15/10</td>
<td>Research Scholar</td>
<td>Fulbright Program</td>
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</table>

* Transfer between J-1 program sponsors may be possible. If you are already in the U.S. in J-1 status, please contact your current J-1 Responsible Officer for more information about the transfer process.

**PART III — FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Exchange Visitors are required to show a minimum of **U.S. $1,600 per month** for living expenses. All financial documents must be current (no older than **3 months**) at the time of application in order to be considered valid.

Appropriate documents reflecting financial ability include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Original Bank Letter verifying liquid assets; stamped and signed by a bank official.
- Letter from employer stating available salary for the duration of EV Program at American University.
- Affidavit of support (Form I-134), submitted by U.S. sponsor & accompanied by financial verification.
- Scholarship letter from sponsoring organization outlining amount, dates, and terms of scholarship.

* The form can be accessed from: www.uscis.gov/forms

**SOURCE OF FUNDS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>AMOUNT FOR PERIOD OF STAY IN U.S. DOLLARS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Personal Funds</td>
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<td>☐</td>
<td>Third-Party Sponsor</td>
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<td>Financial Support from American University</td>
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<td>Home Government Funding</td>
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<td>☐</td>
<td>U.S. Government Funding</td>
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<td>☐</td>
<td>All Other Organizations’ Funding</td>
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<td>TOTAL:</td>
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**Dependent Information:**

Additional funding will be required for eligible accompanying dependents. You must show an additional **$5,500 per year** for a spouse and **$4,000 per year** for each child. **Children who are 21 years of age and older are not eligible to be J-2 dependents.** Please provide us with the information below regarding your dependents. If possible please attach copies of passports for dependents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME: FAMILY, GIVEN</th>
<th>DATE OF BIRTH M/D/Y</th>
<th>COUNTRY OF BIRTH</th>
<th>CITY OF BIRTH</th>
<th>CITIZENSHIP</th>
<th>RELATIONSHIP</th>
<th>EMAIL ADDRESS</th>
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Exchange Visitor Signature ___________________________ Date ___________ (month/date/year)

J-1 Coordinator Initials ___________ Date ___________ (month/date/year)