



F-1 and J-1 Student Visa Comparison

	F-1 VISA	J-1 VISA
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full course of study • Funded either by personal or outside funds or a combination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full course of study • The student or program is financed directly or indirectly by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The U.S. Government; (ii) The government of the student's home country; or (iii) An international organization of which the U.S. is a member by treaty or statute. • The program is carried with an agreement between the U.S. Government and a foreign government. • The program is carried out pursuant to written agreement between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) American and foreign academic institutions; (ii) An American academic institution and a foreign government; or (iii) A state or local government in the U.S. and a foreign government. • The student is supported substantially by funding from any source other than personal or family funds.
On-Campus Employment	Up to 20 hours per week while school is in session. May work full-time during vacation periods.	Up to 20 hours per week while school is in session. May work full-time during vacation periods.
Off-Campus Employment	Yes, after completing 1 academic year in full-time status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curricular Practical Training (CPT) • Optional Practical Training (OPT) • Unforeseen Economic Hardship 	Yes, Academic Training.
Dependent Employment & Study	Dependents (F-2's) are not eligible for employment. Eligible to study part-time in the U.S. or full-time if student is from Kindergarten to 12th grade.	Dependents (J-2s) are eligible to apply for permission to work in the U.S. through duration of primary J-1 holder's program. This permission is obtained through USCIS. Eligible to study part-time or full-time in the U.S.
Completion of Studies	Leave U.S. within 60 days.	Leave U.S. within 30 days.
Requirement to Return Home at Completion of Studies	No requirement to return home upon program completion. May apply for another program or change visa status.	J-1 and J-2 status will be subject to the two-year home residence requirement, also known as 212(e), if any of the following apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the exchange program is financed, directly or indirectly, by the U.S. government or a foreign government. • The skills the Exchange Visitor (EV) is coming to develop or exercise are in a field, which the EV's home government requested be included on the State Department's skills list (skills in short supply in home country). • The EV comes to the U.S. to receive graduate medical education or training.