Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) at the University of Michigan's International Center issues a monthly newsletter for our department contacts across campus. The purpose of this newsletter is to update departments on changes to J-1 immigration regulations, policy and procedure, as well as changes to J-1 policy, processing requirements and timeframes at the University of Michigan. We welcome any feedback that you might have.

J-1 Department Stats for March 2013

The International Center ISSS team processed 168 department initiated requests during March 2013. This is an increase from March 2012 when we processed about 147 department requests.

J-1 New Begin/Transfers: 116
J-1 Amendments: 24
J-1 Extensions: 28

Processing Times for April and May

Our current processing time is about 2 weeks. We hope to keep this processing time through the month of May but May has historically been one of the busiest months for DS2019 processing so it may slow down more as the month progresses. Please understand that our advisors are also very busy with F-1 student requests at this time so your patience is appreciated.

US Immigration Law, Policy & Procedural Changes for J-1s

Electronic I-94 Cards

The United States Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) will begin issuing electronic I-94 cards to J visa holders arriving at select US airports beginning on April 30th, 2013. Implementation of this new procedure will begin at Detroit Metro Airport starting on May 7, 2013 according to CBP's website. We are currently revising our website, cover letters and online scholar trainings to address these changes but we have yet to finalize them. When we are done making these changes we will let you know. Please see the section on Mandatory Check-In for changes to this process.

University of Michigan J-1 Policy and Procedure

Minimum Degree Requirements for Research Scholars and Professors.

In a recent memo issued by the US Department of State (DOS) to institutions sponsoring J-1 Exchange Visitors, DOS clarified that individuals who have not yet earned a bachelor degree in their field of endeavor are not eligible to come as J-1 Research Scholars or Professors. As a result, the International Center has changed its policy and will no longer honor departmental requests for undergraduate students seeking to come in the Research Scholar or Professor categories. Since DOS did not address minimum degree requirements for individuals seeking to come in the J-1 Short-term scholar category, we will continue to approve such requests on a case-by-case basis as we always have.

Clarification on Incidental Patient Care and No Patient Care Letters.

The US Department of State also addressed the issuance of Incidental and No Patient Care letters for individuals with foreign medical degrees. As a result, these letters must now be signed by the requesting school’s dean or his or her designee. If we receive a letter that is not signed by one or the other individual, we will ask for the letter to
be revised. Also, please make sure that if you are picking up a DS-2019 to ship it to the incoming J-1 that this letter is attached to his or her DS-2019 form if your incoming visitor is a foreign medical graduate. We will do our best to copy and attach these letters for this we ship out to scholars directly.

Clarification and Changes to the Department of State Invitation Letters
We recently changed our Department of State Invitation letter template and examples in order to comply with a recent request from the US Department of State to include the Exchange Visitor Category in the letter.

Updates to J-1 Forms, Templates, and Informational Brochures
As a result of the abovementioned changes, the following forms have been updated. Please make sure to use the updated form and templates when submitting requests to our office. Any request received on or after May 1, 2013 that does not include the new request form or DOS letter template will be rejected.
- DS-2019 Begin-New Request Form
- DS-2019 Extension Request Form
- Template for Department of State Invitation Letter
- Department of State Invitation Letter Example for Employees
- Department of State Invitation Letter Example for Non-employees
- General Information about the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program and Instructions Department Requesting Form DS-2019

Mandatory Check-Ins
J-1 Exchange Visitors and their families who arrive in the United States by air during the next few weeks may be issued electronic I-94 cards instead of paper cards. Before coming to the International Center to attend the Physical Presence Check-In these visitors should go to https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94 to print out copies of their electronic I-94 cards. Those visitors entering the United States via a land crossing or at an airport not yet issuing electronic I-94 cards should continue to make copies of their I-94 cards as they have previously done and bring these copies to check-in.

Events for Department Contacts, J-1 Scholars and Families

Events for Department Contacts:

HEC 112
You must complete this course in order to obtain DS2019 user access in MPathways. Registration for this course is through MyLinc in MPathways. All sessions will take place at the International Center, 603 E. Madison St.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 21</td>
<td>9 am to 12 pm</td>
<td>IC Room 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, June 25</td>
<td>9 am to 12 pm</td>
<td>IC Room 9</td>
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Events for Scholars:

English Conversation Group for International Scholars:
This series is designed to meet the needs of international scholars at U-M. Each session features a different topic and you can attend as many of the sessions as you want. The group will practice conversational English and discuss U.S. customs related to informal social interactions in a university setting. Open to international scholars only.

Session Dates and Topics:
Thursday, April 25: Introduction to Small Talk
Thursday, May 23: Managing Work Relationships

Time and Location:
3:30 pm to 5pm, International Center conference room

Questions? Contact the International Center at icenter@umich.edu.