

ACADEMIC TRAINING (J-Visa) **(22 CFR 62.23(f))**

NON-DEGREE/ACADEMIC TRAINING

- Exchange visitor must be engaged in a full-time prescribed course of study in a non-degree program which may not exceed 24 months, including any authorized academic training.
- Academic training must be equal to or less than the period of academic studies (i.e., full-time academic studies is 9 months (classroom instruction); academic training is limited to 9 months maximum).
- Academic training must be directly related to the major field of study at the post-secondary accredited educational institution.

UNDERGRADUATE/PRE-DOCTORATE/ ACADEMIC TRAINING

- Exchange visitor is pursuing or completing a full course of study. (Associates, Bachelors and/or Masters degree) Academic training must be directly related to the major field of study at the post-secondary accredited educational institution.
- Exchange visitor must have received written approval in advance from the Responsible Officer of the program outlining the duration and type of academic training.
- Academic training is limited to a maximum period of 18 months, inclusive of any prior academic training in the U.S. authorized by another J-1 visa program sponsor.
 - **EXAMPLE:** A student who pursues 18 months of academic training following his/her Bachelor degree is not permitted another 18 months of academic training following completion of a Masters degree.
- Authorized academic training must be equal to or less than the period of academic studies (i.e., full-time academic studies is 9 months (classroom instruction); academic training is limited to 9 months maximum).
 - **EXCEPTION:** Academic training beyond the proportionate period of academic studies is allowed to the extent necessary for the exchange visitor to satisfy the mandatory requirements of his or her degree program in the U.S. Such exceptions will not extend the maximum period of 18 months academic training (i.e., full-time academic studies is 9 months (classroom instruction) but mandatory requirements of the degree program requires 12 months of academic training). Such exceptions must be documented and approved by the academic dean or advisor and approved by the Responsible Officer.
- Academic training can be authorized during and/or after completion of the program.

- The Form DS-2019 must be issued for the appropriate period of time, but not to exceed 18 months. Prior to issuing the form, the sponsor shall evaluate the effectiveness and appropriateness of the academic training in achieving the stated goals and objectives in order to ensure the quality of the academic training program.

POST-DOCTORATE/ACADEMIC TRAINING

- Academic training must not exceed a total of thirty-six (36) months, inclusive of any prior academic training as an exchange visitor as part of their Undergraduate/Pre-Doctorate studies.
- Academic training must be directly related to the major field of study at the post-secondary accredited educational institution;
- In calculating the permissible period of academic training, the Responsible Officer must ascertain any prior academic training that the exchange visitor has received during their Undergraduate or Pre-Doctoral studies.
- The Form DS-2019 must be issued for the appropriate period of time, but not to exceed 18 months. Prior to issuing the form, the sponsor shall evaluate the effectiveness and appropriateness of the academic training in achieving the stated goals and objectives in order to ensure the quality of the academic training program.

PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING AUTHORIZATION TO ENGAGE IN ACADEMIC TRAINING

Prior to issuing a Form DS-2019 to an exchange visitor to engage in authorized academic training, a Responsible Officer should obtain from the exchange visitor a letter of recommendation from the student's academic dean or advisor setting forth:

- The goals and objectives of the specific training program;
- A description of the training program, including:
 - the location,
 - the name and address of the training supervisor,
 - the number of hours per week and
 - the dates of the training;
- How the training relates to the student's major field of study; and,
- That the academic training is an integral or critical part of the academic program (classroom instruction) of the student.

In addition, the Responsible Officer must:

- Determine if, and to what extent, the student had previously participated in academic training as an exchange visitor student. This must be done to ensure that the student does not exceed the period of academic training permitted in 62.23(f) of the Exchange Visitor Program Regulations.
- Review the letter received from the exchange visitor from the student's academic dean or advisor and;
- Make a written determination whether the academic training being requested is warranted and that the criteria and time limitations established in the Exchange Visitor Regulations (62.23(f)(3) and (4) are satisfied.

Evaluation Requirements: The sponsor shall/must evaluate the effectiveness and appropriateness of the academic training in achieving the stated goals and objectives in order to ensure the quality of the academic training program.