

EMPLOYMENT

Employment opportunities for J-1 exchange visitors are very restricted. Unless special arrangements have been made, you may only be employed by Eastern Illinois University by your sponsoring department and in the specialized field described on the DS-2019.

On campus

If you are a research scientist in the Department of Chemistry, for example, you may not take a job in the University bookstore or cafeteria to supplement your income. You may not change departments or accept additional employment in another department, even if it is in your field, without permission from the Office of International Programs. A student assistantship is not appropriate employment for a J-1 research scholar or professor.

Off campus

It is possible to receive payment or reimbursement of expenses for short-term activities such as lecturing, consulting or conducting a seminar in your field at another institution with the approval of the Office of International Programs. Procedures for approval: You must provide the following documents: 1) a letter from the institution where you wish to lecture, consult, etc., which describes the terms, including the duration, number of hours, field or subject, amount of compensation and description of the activity; 2) a letter from the head of your sponsoring department recommending the activity and explaining how it would enhance the your program. The Office of International Programs must give you a written decision which, when approval is given, will serve as authorization of this employment. The Office of International Programs must be consulted concerning any other kind of outside employment or joint employment arrangements, and in some cases, permission must be obtained by the U.S. State Department. Unauthorized employment can lead to termination of your J-1 program participation. It is a violation of your status and can create many future problems for you with the USCIS. Because of the many employment restrictions, it is important to be sure before you come to the U.S. that you will have enough income for yourself and for any dependents who accompany you.