

OTHER IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES

Changes of status

Being subject to the [Two-Year Home Residency Requirement](#) greatly limits your possibilities for changing to another status. If you are not subject to this requirement, or if you were subject but obtained a waiver of this requirement, you may apply for a change to any other status for which you are qualified. Procedures for a change of status vary depending on the type of status you wish to obtain. A change of status must be applied for before your J-1 status expires. If you leave the U.S. and return in another status, this is considered a change of status, but you are still restricted if you are subject to the two-year residence requirement.

Transfers

An exchange visitor in any category may transfer from one program sponsor to another if the purpose of the transfer is to complete the objective for which he or she was admitted to the U.S., and if the exchange visitor remains within the same category and within the time limit of that category. The transfer is accomplished through correspondence between the two responsible officers and notification to the State Department. The responsible officer of the new program will prepare a DS-2019 and send it to the current responsible officer for a signature releasing you from that program. Your responsible officer will sign the release only if the transfer clearly is for the purpose of completing the original objective, if it is consistent with the goals of the exchange visitor program, and if your sponsoring EIU department agrees. The DS-2019 is returned to that officer. He/she will notify the State Department of the transfer. Transferring does not extend the time limit for your category.

Changes of category

It is virtually impossible to obtain approval to change your J-1 category in the U.S., because it usually represents a change of objective. In most

cases it would be most expedient to apply for a change to another relevant visa status if you are qualified or to leave the U.S. and reenter in the new J-1 category or a new status if the circumstances allow. Beginning a new program J-1 regulations specify that an individual cannot begin a new J-1 program as a research scholar or professor until a full twelve months have passed since his/her last participation in a J program in any category and if that participation lasted more than six months. Participation refers to physical presence in the U.S. including the grace period. This regulation applies to J-2 dependents as well. It will have an impact on several types of situations including, but not limited to, the following: 1) A J-1 student cannot leave the country and immediately return as a J-1 research scholar or professor; 2) A J-1 research scholar or professor who is at the end of his or her time limit cannot leave the country for a brief period and reenter with a new visa document to begin a new period; and 3) A J-2 who has been in the States for more than six months cannot change to J-1 status as a research scholar or professor without a one year break in J status.