

TIME LIMITS

The minimum period of stay for professors and research scholars is three weeks, with a maximum stay of 42 months. All exchange visitors are allowed to stay 30 days longer than the IAP-66 indicates. This is called a grace period and is to allow you to prepare to return home, sightsee, etc. You may not be employed during this period.

Twelve-Month Rule

If you have been a J-1 exchange visitor you cannot return to the U.S. as a professor or research scholar until twelve months have passed from the end of your previous J program, unless you were in the U.S. for no longer than six months. The time is calculated according to your entry and departure dates. It is not necessary for you to spend the twelve months in your home country or even outside the U.S. You simply must spend twelve months out of J-1 status.

Overstay Penalties

Staying in the U.S. for even one day longer than you are authorized can create serious problems for you. Be sure to leave before your status expires, unless you have another application pending with the INS which allows you to stay.