

YOUR ACTIVITIES AS A J-1 EXCHANGE VISITOR

Categories

You are coming to the U.S. as an exchange visitor for a specific objective. Your objective is described generally in Section 4 of your J-1 visa document (DS-2019) and more in detail in correspondence between the Office of International Students and Scholars and your department before your arrival. Section 4 contains 1) a category which defines your particular activity; 2) a numerical code which indicates your specialized field of work and 3) a brief description of your activity. The categories used by the Office of International Students and Scholars are "Professor" and "Research Scholar". A category has been assigned to you based on the description of your proposed activities provided to us by your sponsoring department. The primary activity for each of these categories is described below:

- **Professor:** Teaching, lecturing, observing or consulting. A professor may also conduct research unless the sponsor does not allow it.
- **Research Scholar:** Conducting research, observing or consulting in connection with a research project. The research scholar may also teach or lecture unless the sponsor does not allow it.

Objectives

The U.S. State Department expects you to stay with your original objective for coming to the United States. As an exchange visitor, therefore, you are normally not allowed to change your category, and you are expected to carry out the activity described in Section 4 of your DS-2019. It is sometimes possible to change to a different sponsoring department if the type of work you are doing stays basically the same. The Office of International Students and Scholars would have to approve such a change. Please consult this office if you are considering any change in your original program activity. You are expected to conduct your work in

Charleston unless special arrangements have been made. It is possible to transfer to another J-1 sponsor as long as your category and field of activity remain the same, if you are still within your time limit, and if your sponsoring department does not object.

Coursework

A J-1 research scholar or professor cannot be a full-time student. You may take one or two classes--even for credit, but research must be your primary activity. If you should decide to become a full-time student, it would be necessary to change to a student visa status. Also, you may not accept a graduate assistantship unless you are on a student visa.