J-1 Exchange Visitors (EV) Special Regulations

**J-1 Visa Categories**

- **Professor/Research Scholar**
  - Apply for J-1 Visa Stamp
  - Granted up to 5-year duration option with strings attached
  - 24-month bar: Cannot re-enter U.S. on J-1 visa Program as Professor or Research Scholar for period of 24 months*
  - Options: Change visa categories to H-1B or other visa status to continue working in U.S.

- **Short-Term Scholar** (Could include faculty in U.S. for less than 6 months)
  - Apply for J-1 Visa Stamp
  - Granted up to 6 months duration only
  - Cannot extend Short-term Scholar Category more than 6 months
  - Options: Depart U.S. and return on a J-1 Research Scholar Category or another visa category

---

**NOTE:** A J-1 EV participating in a J-1 program for longer than 6 months is subject to the **12-month bar**, regardless of program category. The **12-month bar** prohibits an EV from participating in a subsequent J-1 Professor or Research Scholar program for the 12 month period immediately following any J-1 program of 6 months or longer. *J Professor/Research Scholar EVs automatically have a 24-month repeat participation bar, regardless of program duration.

---

**J-1 Special Considerations**

- **Professor/Research Scholar/Short-Term Scholar**
  - Apply for J-1 Visa Stamp
  - U.S. Consulate to determine if EV is subject to the **212(e) 2-year home residency requirement** based on the following criteria:
    - Area of study or field is on Skills List
    - Directly funded by U.S. Gov’t
    - Directly funded by Home Gov’t
  - If subject to 212(e): EV must return to home country for 2 years upon completion of J-1 program.
    - Note: EV cannot apply for H-1B, L-1 or “green card”.
  - Options: Apply for waiver of 212(e) or serve two years in home country or Apply for O-1 visa

---

http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/info/info_1296.html