J-1 Exchange Visitors (EV) Special Regulations

**J-1 12-MONTH AND 24-MONTH REPEAT PARTICIPATION BARS**

**Professor / Research Scholar**
- Apply for J-1 Visa Stamp
- Granted up to 5-year duration option with strings attached

**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

**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.
- 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 in a category other than Professor / Research Scholar 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 2-YEAR HOME-COUNTRY PHYSICAL PRESENCE REQUIREMENT**

**All Categories**
- Apply for J-1 Visa Stamp

U.S. Consulate to determine if EV is subject to the **212(e) 2-year Home-Country Physical Presence 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 return to home country for two years
- Apply for O-1 visa

[https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/exchange.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/exchange.html)