



University at Buffalo
The State University of New York

Office of International Education
International Student and Scholar Services

ACADEMIC TRAINING FOR J-1 STUDENTS

What is Academic Training?

Academic Training is work, training or experience related to a J-1 Student's major field of study. The work, training or experience may be paid or unpaid.

Who is eligible for Academic Training?

To be eligible for Academic Training, you must document that you:

- are currently in valid J-1 student status
- are in good academic standing
- have been offered a job or experience that is directly related to your major field of study

How long is Academic Training?

For undergraduate or pre-doctoral training, a J-1 Student can engage in Academic Training for up to 18 months or the length of the study period, whichever is less.

Exception: Additional time may be authorized if needed to satisfy the mandatory requirements of the J-1 Student's degree program in the U.S.

After completion of the Ph.D., J-1 Students are eligible for up to 36 months of Academic Training (including all prior Academic Training) or the length of the study period, whichever is less. Note: You can only apply for 18 months of Academic Training at a time.

When can I participate in Academic Training?

You can participate in Academic Training during any of the situations below as long as you have a job offer and your Academic Training has been authorized.

- during the semester
- during winter break or summer vacation
- after completion of all required course work for the degree, while working on one's thesis, dissertation or equivalent
- starting no later than 30 days after the completion of studies

How is part-time Academic Training counted?

Part-time Academic Training is counted the same as full-time Academic Training.

When should I apply for Academic Training?

There is no specified time period during which applications for Academic Training prior to completion of studies must be made.

Applications for Academic Training after completion of studies may be made as early as 30 days before the “course of study completion date” and must be made no later than 30 days after the completion of studies date.

** The “course of study completion date” is the degree conferral date immediately following the last fall or spring semester or summer term during which you were enrolled. If you complete your thesis or dissertation in the summer, but do not register for classes during the summer, you must submit to International Student & Scholar Services a letter from your academic advisor or Director of Graduate Studies verifying that you are still working towards your degree, and detailing the nature of the work that you are completing. In such cases, the September 1st degree conferral date will be your completion of course of study date.*

How should I apply for Academic Training?

To apply for Academic Training, submit the following to International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS), 210 Talbert Hall, North Campus:

- International Student Data Form
- Academic Advisor Recommendation Letter
- Proof of adequate health insurance coverage
- Letter from employer (if applicable)

How is Academic Training authorized?

ISSS will review your application and authorize your Academic Training. (No additional authorization from the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services is required.) You will receive a DS-2019 with Academic Training authorization and a letter for your records. ISSS will contact you when your documents are ready for pick up.

How do I maintain my status while on Academic Training?

- Keep your passport valid at all times. Maintain an I-94 card marked “D/S”.
- Have your DS-2019 signed each year by an Alternate Responsible Officer.
- Inform ISSS each time you move and within 10 days of your move.
- Maintain adequate health insurance for yourself and your dependents.
- Only work in a position directly related to your major field of study.
- Apply to extend your DS-2019 prior to the expiration date.