



**University at Buffalo**  
*The State University of New York*

**Office of International Education**  
International Student and Scholar Services

## **J-1 STUDENT INTERN CATEGORY**

### **Who is eligible for the J-1 Student Intern category?**

Students who are currently enrolled and pursuing a degree at a postsecondary academic institution outside the U.S. and whose U.S. internship will fulfill the educational objectives for their current degree program may participate in the J-1 Student Intern program as long as they meet the following requirements:

- Be accepted into an internship program at a postsecondary academic institution in the U.S.
- Be in the U.S. primarily to engage in an internship program rather than to engage in employment
- Have verifiable English language skills sufficient to function on a day-to-day basis in the internship environment
- Have sufficient finances to support themselves (and any dependants) for their entire stay in the U.S.
- Be enrolled and in good academic standing at their academic institution outside the U.S.
- Return to and obtain a degree from their academic institution outside the U.S. after completing the internship program

### **What requirements must the internship program meet?**

The internship program must satisfy the following requirements:

- It does not have to be in the J-1 Student Intern's field of study, but it does have to fulfill the educational objectives for the student's current degree program at his/her home institution.
- The internship cannot serve to fill a labor need. It must only exist so that the J-1 Student Intern can achieve the objectives of the internship program.
- All tasks assigned to the J-1 Student Intern must be necessary for the completion of the internship program.

- The internship must consist of work-based learning, rather than ordinary employment and unskilled labor. Internship tasks may consist of no more than 20 percent clerical work.
- The J-1 Student Intern may participate in the internship with or without wages or other compensation. Full-time employment is permitted with the approval of the student's dean or academic advisor at the student's home institution.
- The internship must expose the J-1 Student Intern to American techniques, methodologies and technology, expand upon the participant's existing knowledge and skills, and not duplicate the student's prior experience.
- Internships cannot place a J-1 Student Intern in any position that involves the following: 1) Unskilled or casual labor, 2) Child care or elder care, 3) Aviation, 4) Clinical positions or any work that involves patient care or contact, or the provision of therapy, medication or other clinical or medical care (e.g. sports or physical therapy, psychological counseling, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, social work, speech therapy, early childhood education).
- The internship cannot displace "American workers" (full or part-time, temporary or permanent).
- The internship must not involve any position, occupation or business that could bring the Exchange Visitor Program or the Department of State into notoriety or disrepute.

### **What requirements must the hosting department meet?**

The hosting department must satisfy the following requirements:

- Verify the J-1 Student Intern's English language ability through an interview, by a recognized English language test, or by signed documentation from an academic institution or English language school
- Ensure that the internship is full-time (i.e. a minimum of 32 hours per week)
- Complete and sign the "Training/Internship Plan" (Form DS-7002)
- Inform the Office of International Student and Scholars Services (ISSS), 210 Talbert Hall, North Campus if the internship will not take place at UB
- Develop procedures for evaluating all J-1 Student Interns and conduct such evaluations. All programs must do a concluding evaluation, and programs lasting more than six months must do a midpoint and concluding evaluation. The evaluations must be submitted to ISSS, 210 Talbert Hall, North Campus.

### **How long can the J-1 Student Intern participate in the internship program?**

J-1 Student Interns can participate in the student internship program for up to 12 months for each degree/major. Extensions beyond 12 months are not possible.

