

Visa Information for Foreign Internationals

F-1/OPT (Optional Practical Training) – 12 months (limited to a 1-year stay)

If a student is currently in the US attending UIC or another institution, he/she can enter into the residency program under F1/OPT (temporary training directly related to field of study). The student must apply for OPT at their present institution in order to get an EAD (Employment Authorization Document) card. He/she would then bring the EAD card to UIC-Office of International Services. Processing time for OIS is 7 - 20 business days.

J-1 (Exchange Visitor) – 36 months (limited to a 3-year maximum stay)

If we (UIC) are sponsoring a J-1, a DS-2019 Request form must be submitted by our department at least 2-3 months in advance of the intended start date. OIS will then produce the DS-2019 to be sent to the student. Upon receipt of the DS-2019, the student may request a J-1 visa from the US Consulate or Embassy in his or her home country. It may take 2 months for the visitor to receive a J-1 visa. This must be calculated into the start date. J-1's are responsible for their own insurance. Refusal to obtain medical coverage can result in termination of visit.

H-1B (Work Permit Visa) - 6 year limitation (after 6 years, visitor must leave US for 1 year before starting back up)

H-1's may be granted to individuals who will perform services (work) in a "specialty occupation." Must have bachelor's degree or higher.

If department terminates the individual's position prior to the end period specified on the H-1B visa, the department is responsible for the cost of the individual's return to his/her home country. After expiration, visitor only has ten (10) days to remain legal.

The Department of Immigration and Naturalization caps and determines the number of H1 visa's to be issued each year.

NOTE: As of 9/1/04, all initial J-1 and F-1 internationals are required to show proof of payment of a \$100 SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) fee, before applying for a visa. H-1 visa fees are: \$185 payable to the Department of Homeland Security and \$765 processing fee payable to OIS. Additional, information on applicable fees can be found at www.FMJfee.com

More information on applying for a visa can be found on UIC's Office of International Services website at www.ois.uic.edu

Information on obtaining a Social Security number for non-citizens can be found at www.ssa.gov/immigration