



This handout is designed for the J-2 dependents of J-1 Exchange Visitors. It lists the conditions of J-2 work authorization and tells you how to apply.

Eligibility Requirements:

- ✓ You must hold valid J-2 status, and the Exchange Visitor must hold valid J-1 status, as shown on your I-94 Departure Record cards.
- ✓ Your income may not be used to support your J-1 spouse or parent.
- ✓ You may work when you receive your Employment Authorization Document (EAD) from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The EAD is an identification card laminated in plastic, with your photograph, fingerprint, and the expiration date of your permission to work.
- ✓ You may work part-time or full-time, at any job, for any employer (except that you may not practice medicine, even if you hold a license). There is no legal limit to the amount that you may earn.
- ✓ USCIS can authorize J-2 employment as long as the J-1 Exchange Visitor has permission to stay or for a period of four years, whichever is shorter. Permission to stay expires on the date shown on the DS-2019.

Application Procedures:

In most cases, applications for employment authorization for J-2 dependents should be mailed to the USCIS Service Center serving your region. Before applying, you should consult the international office of your J-1 Exchange Visitor's institution for any procedural changes that may have occurred before submitting the items on the following list. Be sure to submit all the items below.

- Photocopy of the DS-2019 of the J-1 spouse/parent
- Photocopies of both sides of the I-94 card of the J-1
- Photocopies of both sides of the I-94 card of the J-2
- Completed Form I-765, "Application for Employment Authorization," code (c)(5)
- A copy of your marriage certificate (if your names are different)
- A check for \$340, payable to USCIS (Note: Fees subject to change at any date)
- Two photographs (Please refer to separate handout for photo guidelines)
- Copies of former EAD cards, if applicable
- A letter from you, the J-2 dependent, to the District Director requesting work permission. The point of the letter is not to demonstrate need; it is to show the USCIS that the J-1 Exchange Visitor has sufficient resources for his or her own expenses and will not depend on your earnings. **In the letter you should indicate the sources and amounts of the J-1 Exchange Visitor's support and include a short budget statement of family expenses to show that his or her earnings are adequate without any income from your employment. You should give a reason for wanting to work, which may be a worthwhile interest or activity such as family travel or recreational or cultural activities. In your letter you must state specifically that income from your earnings will not be used for the J-1 Exchange Visitor's support.**