Exchange Visitor Orientation
Welcome Scholars and Interns!
Legal Stuff

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Orientation Agenda

• Introduction to OIE
• Your Immigration Documents
• Regulations of your J-1/J-2 Status
• International Travel
• SSN & Driver’s Licenses
• Safety & Campus Resources
Objective of the Exchange Visitor Program

“To increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchanges.”

• Scholars are permitted to teach, study, conduct research.

• J interns are permitted to gain exposure to U.S. culture and to receive hands-on professional experience in their field.
The OIE assists ~7,000 international students and scholars.

Office of International Education
The OIE assists ~7,000 international students and scholars.

How to Contact our Office

1. Review the website for information:
   https://oie.gatech.edu/ISSS_Jscholars
   https://oie.gatech.edu/ISSS_Jstudent_intern

2. If you don’t find the information you’re looking for, email us at info@oie.gatech.edu. Allow a response time of 48 hours.

3. Want to come in to speak to an advisor? You have two options
   • Make an appointment online at:
     https://oie.gatech.edu/isss_advising
   • Virtual advising Mon., Tues. and Thurs.- see OIE homepage for more info
Understanding Your Immigration Documents

Please take out your, DS-2019, Passport, and I-94
Knowledge Check

Discuss with your partner or group.

- While inside the U.S., which document should you carry with you at all times?
- Which document(s) can you use to prove your date of birth?
- What document is your “key” for entering the country?
- Which document is your “contract”?
- Which document shows the date you entered the United States?
- True/False: I can stay in the US with an expired passport.
- True/False: I can stay in the US with an expired visa.
Knowledge Check

Questions

1. Which document should you carry a copy of at all times?
2. Which document(s) can you use to prove your date of birth?
3. What document is your “key” for entering the country?
4. Which document is your “contract”? 
5. Which document shows the date you entered the United States?
6. True/False: I can stay in the US with an expired passport.
7. True/False: I can stay in the US with an expired visa.

Answers

1. Your I-94 + passport. You may need your official passport with you sometimes, but if you don’t need it keep it at home.
2. Your passport or a US driver’s license.
3. Your J-1 visa
4. Your DS-2019
5. Your I-94
6. False. You must have a valid passport for the duration of your stay.
7. True, but you need to have a valid DS-2019.
Passport

• You will need it when you have to prove your identity, citizenship, and date of birth. For example:
  • Boarding a plane
  • Opening a bank account
  • Finding an apartment
  • Renting a car
  • Getting a drivers license or SSN

• Keep it valid throughout your J program.

• If it will expire, you can renew it inside the US at the consulate/embassy of your country of citizenship

• If you don’t need it, don’t carry it with you.
Visa

- Your J-1 Visa is your permission to board a plane to the US, and enter at the border. It is your “key.”

- If your visa expires while you are inside the US, no action is required if you have a valid DS-2019.

- If your visa expires while you are outside the US, you will need to get a new J-1 visa before you can re-enter in J-1 status.

- Your visa also has the following information
  - Your SEVIS number. Should match your DS-2019
  - Your passport number
  - Subjectivity to section 212e (the Two Year Rule)
I-94

- Electronic record that records your arrival(s) and departure(s) from the US
- Essential to demonstrate J-1 status.
- Anytime you leave or enter the US, check your I-94 for any errors. Such as
  - Wrong visa type
  - Does not have D/S for “admit until date”
  - DOB, spelling errors
- U.S. laws require all nonimmigrants to carry a copy of I-94 at all times.
- Get your I-94: https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/
U.S. Department of State
CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR EXCHANGE VISITOR STATUS (J-NONIMMIGRANT)

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212(e)
DS-7002

J Student Interns Only

• This is a contract between Student Intern & Georgia Tech.

• OIE facilitated the creation but the supervisor is responsible for the learning objectives

• Evaluations for both the Intern and Supervisor (final eval for all, and 6-month eval if applicable)

• Interns will receive a final evaluation certificate at the conclusion of the internship
J-Categories

What is your category and how to maintain your J-1 status.
What is your J Category?

Your category is listed on your DS-2019. Your category is based on your objectives and duration of your program.

**Research Scholar**
- Conducting and observing research. May teach occasionally.
- 5 year maximum
- 24 month bar applies

**Professor**
- Teaching and lecturing. May conduct research.
- 5 year maximum
- 24 month bar applies

**Short Term Scholar**
- Conducting and observing research for less than 6 months.
- 6 month maximum
- 24 month bar does not apply

**Student Intern**
- Enhance the skills participation in structured and guided work-based training and internship programs
- 1 year maximum
- 12 month bar may apply
Maintenance of J Immigration Status

- **Continuous progress to complete the DS-2019 objective**
- **Maintain** health insurance that meets or exceeds US DOS minimum standards (J1/J2)
- **Authorization from OIE for activities outside of GT (interns not eligible)**
- **OIE must have valid U.S. living address at all times, you must notify the OIE of any changes within 10 calendar days.**
- **Employment only in GT sponsoring department**
- **Receive travel authorization prior to international travel**
Extensions and Shortened Programs

Need to extend your program?

• The extension process will need to be initiated by your host department. You are required to show proof of funding for the length of the extension.

• You are also required to show proof of health insurance compliant with the U.S. Department of State requirements. Any gaps in coverage could lead to a denial of your extension.

• Extensions must be requested before your program end date listed on the DS-2019. We ask for a minimum of 15 days prior to the end date on your DS-2019.

Want to finish early?

That is okay! Please notify your department and the OIE of your plans to depart more than 2 weeks prior to the current end date on your DS-2019.
The Two Year Rule: 212 (e)

What is 212 (e) Two-Year Home Country Residency Requirement?

212(e) is an agreement between the U.S. and your home country to ensure your home country benefits from your exchange experience.

212 (e) Restrictions:

• You will be required to physically reside in your home country for 2 years before returning to the U.S. in specific visa statuses (Ex: H, L, K, permanent resident)
• Not eligible to request a change of status inside the U.S.
212 (e) Continued

What causes someone to be subject to 212 (e)?

• Department of State Skills List or Government Financing

How Do I Know If I Am Subject to 212 (e)?

• The consular official will note on the DS-2019 if you are subject to 212(e) and for what reason you are subject

• The visa stamp will have a note stating you are subject to 212(e)

What if I don’t believe I should be subject to 212 (e)?

• It is possible to request an advisory opinion from the U.S. Department of State.

Is there any way to request that I not be subject to 212(e)?

• It is possible to request a 212(e) waiver, however, you will be ineligible for extension of the DS-2019 after applying for a waiver + OIE will not provide waiver advice.
International Travel While Participating in Your EVP
Case Study Question #1

Daniela is a J-1 Exchange Visitor from Brazil who has to go to a conference in Australia during her J program.

• What documents does she need in order to go to Australia?

• What will she need to get back into the US?
Case Study Answer #1

What documents does she need in order to go to Australia? What will she need to get back into the US?

• She will need to complete the Travel Signature Request in iStart.

• The DS-2019 with a travel validation from an OIE advisor is valid for travel for up to one year from the date of the A/RO signature.

• Valid passport

• Valid J-1 visa

• Proof of Health Insurance compliant with U.S. DOS requirements.
Case Study Question #2

Murali is a J-1 Exchange Visitor from India who needs to return home for more than 30 days.

• What documents does he need in order to return to India? What will he need to get back into the US?
Case Study Answer #2

Travel outside the US for more than 30 days is classified as an “Out of Country Authorization”. In order to receive a travel signature the scholar and the host department must prove the following:

- The scholar is continuing their participation and making progress toward completion of the original activities/objectives described in the Exchange Visitor Program DS-2019 request,
- The scholar has continued funding for the exchange activities for the duration of the Exchange Visitor program, and
- The scholar has maintained continuous medical insurance for the duration of the Exchange Visitor Program.
- The scholar and any J-2 dependents must maintain health insurance while out of the US and J-2s cannot stay in the US while the J-1 is gone for more than 30 days.
Updated/renewed your insurance, passport, visa or other immigration docs?

Invited to lecture or perform activities outside your normal objectives?

Traveling outside of the USA?

Change your living address or phone number?
Medical Insurance
Medical Insurance

• J-1 & J-2s must be covered for the duration of the Exchange Visitor program.
• Failure to maintain health insurance is a violation of your J-1 visa status, and may make you ineligible for benefits (extension and travel requests).
• Evidence of Health Insurance is required for OIE check-in.
  • Medical Evacuation/Repatriation must be purchased separately if not included in health insurance plan.
  • Not all insurance plans are ACA compliant. If you do not purchase an ACA compliant health coverage you are subject to a tax penalty when you file taxes.
• GT student/employee insurance is ACA compliant.
• Stamps Health Center- Pharmacy & Dentistry Only.
• List of Insurance Companies.
Dependents on J-2 visas
J-2 Dependents: Spouse or Children under 21 yrs

Regulations

• If your spouse or children will be with you for a majority of your program, they should apply for a J-2 visa.
• If your spouse or children will only visit you for a short period of time, a B-1/B-2 visitor visa is more appropriate.
• You must complete J-2 Check in upon their arrival to the US.

Resources

• Your dependents are permitted to enroll in college/university classes.
• Your dependents are eligible to work in the US, so long as they get authorization from USCIS.
• Your dependents can receive a BuzzCard and have access to the Campus Recreation Center and other resources on campus.
• The Georgia Tech Language Institute has discounted English language classes for J-2 spouses.
• The GT Spouse group meets every Monday, 3pm at the 10th and Home Activity Room. womens.center@gatech.edu
• https://oie.gatech.edu/content/spouse-family-resources
Social Security Number & Driver’s Licenses

What do they do? Do you need one? What you should consider before applying.
Social Security Numbers and Driver’s License

Social Security Number (SSN)
- Permanent 9 digit number (lifetime use)
- Must obtain SSN when employed in the U.S.
- Used by employer and the IRS to track wages
- Not evidence of legal status in the U.S.
- Businesses use it to track credit history
- **Never** carry your SSN card
- GT employees: Bring the SSN card GT Human Resources after you receive it in the mail.

Driver’s License
- Required to register a car in the U.S.
- Helpful to avoid carrying passport
- Must demonstrate legal status in U.S., SSN and 2 documents identifying residence in Georgia
- Do not use phone while driving, GA law
- [https://dds.georgia.gov/information-non-us-citizens](https://dds.georgia.gov/information-non-us-citizens)
U.S. Laws and Safety

Tips and resources to help you stay safe on campus
Campus Safety

• **GTPD** is a state certified law enforcement agency which protects & supports the GT community. Their website has safety tips.

• GTPD direct phone number is 404-894-2500.

• Theft is most common crime on campus, so be sure to lock up your bicycle, don't leave belongings unattended, and be aware of your surroundings.

• Smoking is **not allowed** anywhere on GT campus (**smoke-free campus**)  

• Electric scooter safety: Do not ride on sidewalks; scooter ban from 9pm to 4am

• Campus emergency notifications: GTENS- [https://prepare.gatech.edu/emergency-notification/gtens](https://prepare.gatech.edu/emergency-notification/gtens)  
  • Affiliates (non-GT employees): Contact Office of Emergency Preparedness for assistance

• Walk in groups, use the **LiveSafe** app, call a **Stingerette** (404-385-7433), or call GTPD for a safety escort

• When off-campus call 911 for emergencies
U.S. Laws

• In the U.S. you must be 21 years of age to purchase or consume alcohol.
• It is illegal to drive while under the influence of alcohol, it is also deadly.
• It is illegal to purchase or consume narcotics without a prescription.
• Any arrest while inside the U.S. will result in a revocation of the J Exchange Visitor Visa.
Additional Resources
iBuzz: bi-weekly newsletter

- Bi-weekly newsletter - request to be added to the email list by sending an email to info@oie.gatech.edu
- Follow us on Twitter & Instagram @GT_ISSS!

Daily Digest: http://daily.gatech.edu

GT Language Institute (in-person + online)

- Courses for scholars, dependents at discounted rate
- Register with the English Language Institute (ELI)

GT Communications Center (Comm Lab)

Student Intern Events

Atlanta Events

- https://www.events12.com/atlanta/#events
- https://atlantaplanit.wabe.org/
- https://creativeloafing.com/See-and-Do
Thank You

info@oie.gatech.edu
www.oie.gatech.edu
@GT_ISSS!
https://health.gatech.edu/tech-moving-forward