



# U.S. Consulate General Surabaya, Indonesia

## INFORMATION FOR EXCHANGE VISITORS

The Immigration and Nationality Act provides two Non Immigrant Visa categories for persons to participate in exchange visitor programs in the United States. The “J” visa is for educational and cultural exchange programs designated by the U.S. Information Agency (USIA)/ U.S. Department of State, Exchange Visitor Program and Designation Staff, and the “Q” visa is for international cultural exchange programs designated by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

The “J” exchange visitor program is designed to promote the interchange of persons, knowledge, and skills in the fields of education, arts, and sciences. Participants include students at all academic levels; trainees obtaining on-the-job training with firms, institutions, and agencies; teachers of primary, secondary, and specialized schools; professors coming to teach or do research at institutions of higher learning; research scholars; professional trainees in the medical and allied fields; and international visitors coming for the purpose of travel, observation, consultation, research, training, sharing, or demonstrating specialized knowledge or skills, or participating in organized people-to-people programs.

The “Q” international cultural exchange program is for the purpose of providing practical training, employment, and the sharing of the history, culture, and traditions of the participant’s home country in the United States.

**Requirements:** Specific requirements vary depending on the purpose of the program:

### ***Financial Resources***

Participants in the "J" exchange visitor program must have sufficient funds to cover all expenses, or funds must be provided by the sponsoring organization in the form of a scholarship or other stipend. "Q" exchange visitors will be paid by their employing sponsor at the same rate paid to local domestic workers similarly employed.

Scholastic Preparation: “J” exchange visitors must have sufficient scholastic preparation to participate in the designated program, including knowledge of the English language, or the program must be designed to accommodate non-English speaking participants. The “Q” exchange visitor must be at least 18 years old and able to communicate effectively about the cultural attributes of his/her country.

Medical Education and Training: Exchange visitors coming under the “J” program for graduate medical education or training must meet certain special requirements. These include having passed the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination in Medical Sciences (FMGMS); demonstrating competency in English; being automatically subject to a two-year residency requirement upon completion of the program in the U.S.; and being subject to time limits on the duration of the program. Please note that physicians coming to the U.S. on exchange visitor programs for the purpose of observation, consultation, teaching, or research in which there is little or no patient care are not subject to the above requirements.



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## ***Forms/Petitions***

Participants in the "J" program must present a Form DS-2019 prepared by a designated sponsoring organization. Participants in the "Q" program must have the designated sponsoring organization file Form I-129, Petition for Nonimmigrant Worker, with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). The INS will notify the sponsor on Form I-797 when the petition is approved. It should be noted that the approval of a petition does not guarantee visa issuance to an applicant found to be ineligible under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

**Applying for the Visa:** Applicants should apply in person at the U.S. Consulate General. Each applicant must pay a non-refundable US\$100.00 application fee (payable in Rupiah, according to the exchange rate valid on the day of application) and submit:

- 1) An application form DS-156, completed and signed with photo attached;
- 2) Form DS-158, Contact Information and Work History for Nonimmigrant Visa Applicant, completed;
- 3) Male applicants aged 16 to 45 years at the time of applying for visa must also complete application FORM **DS-157**;
- 4) A passport valid for U.S. travel and with a validity date at least six months beyond the applicant's intended period of stay in the United States;
- 5) One recent color or black-white photo for each applicant, white background, 5 x 5 cm, showing full face, forehead, and ears;
- 6) A completed Form DS-2019 for the "J" applicant and a Form I-197 for the "Q" applicant issued by the program sponsor in the United States. Applicants should read and complete the reverse of page 1 of the DS-2019 before submitting it;
- 7) Evidence of financial support for the entire course of stay in the U.S. Please note that "J" visa holders may not accept remunerative employment in the United States other than a job that is an integral part of their program; and
- 8) Evidence that the exchange visitor will return to his/her country upon termination of the program in the U.S. "Q" visa programs are for a maximum of 15 months.

Eligible applicants who are Indonesian citizens do not need to pay an addition fee. Applicants of other nationalities may have to pay an additional fee.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### ***Employment***

Employment while in "J" exchange visitor status depends upon the terms of the program. Participants in programs which provide for on-the-job training, teaching, research, or other activities which involve paid employment may accept such employment. Participants in programs which do not involve work may not accept outside employment. The "Q" international cultural exchange program specifically authorizes paid employment as part of the program.

### ***Foreign Residency Requirement***



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Certain "J" exchange visitors who participate in programs which were financed in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, by an agency of the U.S. Government or by the exchange visitor's government, or who are nationals or residents of a country which have been designated by USIA as requiring the skills of the exchange visitor, must return to their country of nationality or last residence after completing their program in the United States, and reside there physically for two years before they may become eligible to apply for an immigrant or temporary worker visa. "Q" exchange visitors may not participate in another "Q" program until they have been abroad for one year.

### ***Family Members***

The spouse and minor children of participants in "J" exchange programs may apply for derivative "J-2" visas to accompany or follow to join the principal alien by presenting a copy of the principal's Form DS-2019. They must demonstrate that they will have sufficient financial resources to cover all expenses while in the United States. Dependents may apply to the INS for authorization to accept employment in the U.S. The "Q" exchange program does not provide for the admission of the spouse or children of a participant in a derivative status. If the exchange visitor's family plans to enter the U.S. separately, the host institution in the U.S. should provide another DS-2019 for the family's use in applying for a visa. The proper box in the upper right hand corner of the Form DS-2019 indicates "to permit the visitor's family to enter the U.S. separately".

### **U.S. PORT OF ENTRY**

Applicants should be aware that a visa does not guarantee entry into the United States. The INS has authority to deny admission. Also, the period for which the bearer of an exchange visitor visa is authorized to remain in the United States is determined by the INS, not the consular officer. At the port of entry, an INS official validates Form I-94, Record of Arrival-Departure, which notes the length of stay permitted.

Many exchange visitors will be required to return to their country of nationality or of last residence after completing their stay in the U.S. They must reside and be physically present there for two years in order to become eligible to apply for an immigrant visa, or for a non-immigrant visa as a temporary worker (H) or as an intra-company transferee (L). Exchange visitors to whom this residence requirement is applicable are those nationals or residents of a country designated by the Director of USIS as requiring the skills of such persons and/or persons going to the United States under programs sponsored by the United States Government or their own government.