

Exchange Visitor Program Overview

International education and cultural exchanges are one of the most effective means of developing lasting and meaningful relationships. They provide an extremely valuable opportunity to experience the United States and our way of life.

The Exchange Visitor Program was established to implement the Mutual Education and Cultural Exchange Act (Fulbright Hayes Act) of 1961. This program was created “to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchanges”. Exchange Visitors are typically expected to return to their home countries upon completion of their program at Central Michigan University. The Office of Global Engagement prepares the *Form DS-2019 Certificate of Eligibility* for the Exchange Visitor. This form is used to both apply for a J-1 Visa from the local United States Embassy or Consulate and to enter the United States to begin a program here at CMU.

The Department of State (DOS) manages the Exchange Visitor Program. For more information, you can visit their website at: <http://j1visa.state.gov/>.

Please note: The Exchange Visitor Request form is for Academic Departments inviting a professor, research scholar, or short-term scholar. These Exchange Visitors are commonly referred to, in general, as scholars. This form is not for student request.

General Eligibility

Regulations are published by the DOS in Title 22 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). These laws set forth the specific requirements that must be met by applicants who wish to acquire J-1 nonimmigrant status to participate in an exchange visitor program. An applicant must meet these requirements before a consular officer issues a J-1 visa, or before the Department of Homeland Security admits the individual into the United States in J-1 Status. Some basic requirements include:

- The Exchange Visitor plans to remain in the United States for a temporary, specific, and limited period of time
- They possess sufficient proficiency in the English language to participate in their program and to function on a day-to-day basis
- They are otherwise qualified for the exchange visitor category they wish to participate
- The Exchange Visitor program has accepted the visitor into a program, and they plan to carry out a specific activity, such as study or research
- There is evidence of funds to cover expenses while in the United States
- The visitor can prove to a United States consulate when applying for the visa that they “have residence abroad which he has no intention of abandoning”. This is usually shown by evidence of social and economic ties abroad

Exchange Visitor Categories, Lengths of Stay,

and Minimum Requirements

The Exchange visitor categories are determined based upon each scholar's activity and purpose for visiting CMU. Questionnaire

Professor: A professor primarily teaches, lectures or observes while at CMU. He/she may also conduct research

Research Scholar: A research scholar primarily conducts research, observes, or consults in connection with a research project at CMU. He/she may also teach or lecture.

Short-Term Scholar: A professor, research scholar, specialist, or a person with similar education or accomplishments coming to the United States on a short-term visit for the purpose of lecturing, observing, consulting, training, or demonstrating special skills.

| Exchange Visitor Category | Minimum Program Duration | Maximum Program Duration | Notes |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Professor/Research Scholar | 3 weeks | 5 years | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not eligible for tenure track positions • <i>May not have been in the United States in J-1 or J-2 status for 12 months prior to the start date of their new program</i> • Are not eligible to return to the United States in either of these categories for a period of 24 months following the completion of their program • <i>The visitor is expected to have appropriate academic credentials (minimum of a bachelor's degree in a related field)</i> |
| Short Term Scholar | 1 day | 6 months | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor may stay in the United States the time needed to complete the objective, up to a maximum of 6 months • <i>No extension past 6 months is allowed</i> • The visitor is not subject to the 12 month/24 month participation bar |

Health Insurance Requirements

Federal regulations require that all Exchange Visitors maintain health insurance coverage for the entirety of their program. The university is not required to pay for the insurance coverage but must ensure that the visitor *and all accompanying dependents* have valid coverage while in the United States. The health insurance coverage must meet the minimum standards below:

- Medical Benefits of at least **\$100,000 per accident or illness**;
- Expenses associated with medical evacuation of the exchange visitor to his or her home country in the amount of **\$50,000**;
- Repatriation of remains in the amount of **\$25,000**;
- A deductible that does not exceed **\$500 per accident or illness**

Please be sure to check with the Exchange Visitor before their arrival to ensure they have purchased the proper health coverage. Proof of coverage will be due to the Office of Global Engagement upon arrival to the US.

*Please note: Insurance provided to CMU Faculty and Staff does **not** meet the minimum requirements for the Exchange Visitor program. These requirements are set by the Department of State, not CMU. If you chose to use this coverage, you will be required to also purchase supplemental coverage for Medical Evacuation and Repatriation.*

Housing Requirements

The Academic Department or College inviting an Exchange Visitor is responsible for assisting in making arrangements for their arrival to campus and any necessary housing reservations. They are welcome to live anywhere in Mount Pleasant, but if the Exchange Visitor would prefer on campus housing, please contact the University Apartments Office in the Office of Residence life at 989-774-3284 or apts@cmich.edu. On-campus apartments have limited availability.

Financial Requirements

Exchange Visitors are required to show adequate proof of financial support for the entirety of their program at Central Michigan University. A minimum of \$15,000 USD of support per year for the Exchange Visitor is required. If you will be here less than one year, this amount will be prorated to reflect the length of time of your program. *If you are bringing any dependents with you (spouse or child) there is an additional proof of funding requirement of \$3,500 USD per dependent.* We will accept the following as proof of adequate financial support:

- If you will be sponsored by CMU, please submit your official appointment letter to show salary/stipend amount
- If you are using personal funds, you will be required to submit a personal bank statement showing the required amount of funding in an account. This must be on bank letter head and/or signed by a bank official
- If you are receiving a government or any other form of scholarship, please send us a copy of the letter that indicates what amounts and what will be covered. If the amount is not enough to cover the entirety of your stay, you will need to submit a supplemental bank statement