

Pre-Arrival Recommendations

The purpose of the Exchange Visitor Program

Research Scholars – See “Scholar Contract at CSUSB” for more requirements:

- Visiting scholar’s primary responsibility at CSUSB in the Exchange Visitor program is to do research.
- Visiting Scholar must e-mail their department/mentor at CSUSB to discuss clarified expectations with the visiting scholar regarding the purpose of the exchange, faculty collaboration, benefits, length of program, and access to office/lab space, equipment and other department support.
- Visiting Scholar must attend workshops on progress and welfare of the scholar, including ensuring that s/he obtains advice and assistance to facilitate the successful completion of her/his exchange program.
- Visiting Scholar is required to live within 20 miles or 32 kilometers of CSUSB.
- Visiting Scholar will not come to CSUSB to seek political asylum, permanent residency or otherwise disappear and not report to CSUSB.

INA 212(e) Home Residence Requirement

Exchange visitors who are subject to the two-year home country residence requirement must “reside and be physically present” in their “home” country for an aggregate of two years before being eligible for certain immigration benefits. You are not eligible for an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident (immigrant/green card) status. You are not eligible for an H-visa (temporary workers and dependents), or an L-visa (intracompany transferees and dependents). You are not eligible for a change of non-immigrant status within the United States from J to any other non-immigrant category.

Travel and entry into the United States

Paying your I-901 SEVIS Fee

Regulation requires all prospective J visiting scholars to pay the I-901 Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) fee before the Department of State issues you a visa. To view current fees and pay the I-901 SEVIS fee, go to **FMJfee.com**. Please read the instructions before you pay. **Don’t forget to print your receipt!**

Note: The visa Fee is a separate fee from the I-901 fee.

Applying for a Visa to Travel to the United States

Follow the instructions at the website of the embassy or consulate where you will apply for a visa. After you receive your visa, check to see that you received the right type of visa and that your name and date of birth are correct and match the information in your passport. If anything is incorrect, you will have to ask the embassy or consulate to correct your visa before you travel.

Preparing for your trip to the United States

Before you leave for the United States, make sure you have all the required documentation:

- Passport
- Visa
- Form DS-2019
- I-901 receipt

It is always a good idea to carry your original documents with you at all times. Do not put them in your checked baggage. It is also a good idea to make at least two sets of copies of these documents: one digital copy and one copy to give to your school officials.

Housing

There are a lot of options for housing in the U.S. Please go to the following website to learn more.

<https://www.csusb.edu/international-education/student-services/new-students/housing-information>

A breakdown of all fees

Short-Term Scholars Only:

Orientation/administrative processing fee of \$300

Tuition and fees: <https://www.csusb.edu/student-financial-services/tuition-and-fees>

Keep in mind that you will also be held to the International student fee of \$264 per unit

Insurance through CISP:

<https://www.csusb.edu/international-education/student-services/new-students/health-insurance>

Bus Fees:

found here: <https://omnitrans.org/buy-a-pass/fares/>

Housing fees:

Rent \$1500 to \$2000 depending on a number of factors (size, location,

etc.) Security deposit usually first and last month's rent

Utilities may be included or may be extra based on use

Health care and insurance requirements

The U.S. Information Agency requires all J-1 Exchange Visitors and their accompanying dependents to have health and accident insurance at the following minimum level of coverage:

- medical benefits of at least \$100,000 per accident or illness
- repatriation of remains in the amount of \$25,000
- expenses associated with medical evacuation in the amount of \$50,000
- deductible not to exceed \$500 per accident/illness

Therefore, J-1 scholars are required to either purchase sufficient health insurance in their country, or upon arrival in the US may purchase health insurance which meets the minimum requirements. **In other words, if you don't have the required health insurance from another provider, you must purchase it through the Center for International Studies and Programs.**

If health insurance coverage is purchased from another source, the insurance corporation underwriting the policy must have one of the following ratings:

- an A.M. Best rating of "A-" or above
- an Insurance Solvency International, Ltd., (ISI) rating of "A-i" or above
- a Standard & Poor's Claimspaying Ability rating of "A-" or above
- a Weiss Research, Inc. rating of "B+" or above
- Insurance coverage backed by the full faith and credit of your home government meets these requirements.

The U.S. government regulations require the University to notify the U.S. Information Agency and to terminate any J-1 exchange visitor status if they determine that you have willfully failed to comply with the insurance requirements.

Arrival Information

Upon entering the United States, you will receive an automated Form I-94 record that will automatically be generated for you by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers. CBP will provide you with an admission stamp on your passport that is annotated with date of entry, class of admission and admitted-until date. The electronic arrival/departure record can be obtained at <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/#/home> , should you need proof of entry.

Reporting to your School

You have 30 days to enter the country **before** your official program start date, which you can find on your DS-2019. It is best to contact **The Center for International Studies and Programs** immediately after entering the country so that there is no question of your arrival. If you cannot enter the United States for the term listed on your DS-2019 or if you will be late by a few days, immediately contact your designated school officials so that they can accurately enter this information in your SEVIS record.