

J-2 Dependents

Overview

Only the spouse and minor children (under age 21) who accompany the primary visa holder to the U.S. may receive J-2 dependent status. Their eligibility to stay legally in the U.S., as well as to extend their stay, is contingent upon the primary visa holder maintaining his/her legal status and extending his/her program in a timely manner.

All other family members must apply for a B-1 or B-2 visitor's visa to gain entry to the U.S. For more information on B-1/B-2 visitor visas for other family members, refer to [Family Visitors to the U.S](#) [1].

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To enter the U.S. as a J-2 dependent, each dependent must have a DS-2019 and a J-2 visa.

Documents required to apply for a J-2 visa:

- Valid passport
- Photographs
- J-2 dependent DS-2019
- Visa application fee
- [Visa application forms](#) [2]
- Supporting documentation including copies of the spouse's J-1 immigration documents, proof of study or program at U-M, and financial documentation.

[Change of Status to J-2](#) [3]

Important information about J-2 Status

The status of the J-2 may be extended when the J-1's program and DS-2019 is extended.

A J-2 may not be admitted for longer than the J-1. After the program completion date on the Form DS-2019, the J-1 and the J-2s may stay in the U.S. for an additional period of 30 days; this is called the grace period. During the grace period you may travel within the U.S but may not work or re-enter the US in J-1/J-2 status.

Once the J-1 has completed his or her program and left the U.S., the J-2 dependents must leave as well.

Immigration regulations require that all J-1 exchange visitors and their J-2 dependents be covered by health insurance while participating in the exchange visitor program.

Dependent children over age 21 are no longer eligible for J-2 status and will need to change to another status such as F-1 (for full time students) if they wish to stay in the U.S.

Employment

J-2 employment may be authorized by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service **for the duration** of the J-1 principal's authorized stay as indicated on Form [I-94](#) [4] and Form DS-2019 or a period of four years, whichever is shorter. However, most commonly, the Employment Authorization Document (EAD) is issued for a 12-month period and has to be renewed once a year. For information about U-M's policies on volunteer work, see [U-M Volunteer Guidelines](#) [5].

For more information on applying for an Employment Authorization, refer to [J-2 Dependent Employment Authorization Document](#) [6].

After obtaining the EAD, the J-2 spouse may apply for a Social Security Number and will be subject to federal and local income tax.

Study

Currently there are no regulatory restrictions on study for J-2 dependents.

Source URL: <https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/j2-dependents>

Links

[1] <https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/other-family-visitors>

[2] <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/>

[3] <https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/change-status-j2-dependent>

[4] <https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/i-94>

[5] <https://ogc.umich.edu/frequently-asked-questions/volunteers/>

[6] <https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/j2-dependent-employment-authorization-document>