



## J-1 Exchange Visitor (Students and Scholars): Adding a Dependent (J-2)

### Who can I add as my J-2 Dependent?

If you are studying, teaching, or conducting research at the University of Utah on a J-1 visa, your spouse or unmarried minor children (under 21 years of age) are eligible to apply for a J-2 dependent visa. The dependent is added to the primary J-1 Exchange Visitor's (student or scholar) SEVIS record, and will receive their own DS-2019 and SEVIS number.

**Note:** A J-2 dependent's status is dependent on the J-1's status. If the J-1's status expires, is terminated, or the J-1 leaves the US permanently, the J-2's status also ends.

### Applying for your J-2 dependent's DS-2019:

Dependents are added to the **J-1 Exchange Visitor's (EV)** SEVIS record and are given their own DS-2019. To request this document, you will need to complete the J-2 "**Dependent Application**" E-Form using the iStart link  found at the ISSS website: [www.iss.utah.edu](http://www.iss.utah.edu). Dependent DS-2019s have a processing time of up to 2 weeks.

Along with inputting biographical information about your dependent (name, date of birth, citizenship, etc.), the following documents must be uploaded to this E-form:

- Copy of dependent's **biographical (photo) page from passport**
- Copy of **marriage certificate** (for spouse) or **birth certificate** (for child)
- Copy of J-1's **DS-2019**
- **Financial support document** with additional **\$6,000 per dependent** to support each dependent for **one year J-1 students**. For **Scholars** (Researchers, Professors, and student Interns), an additional \$500 per month for the duration of their Exchange Visitor Program is required.
  - <http://iss.utah.edu/forms-publications/documents/Handout-financial-support-documents.pdf>
- **Affidavit of Support** form (required if the bank statement provided is from another source other than the student or scholar).
  - <http://iss.utah.edu/forms-publications/documents/affidavit-of-support.pdf>

**NOTE:** Once you receive your dependent's DS-2019, dependent must sign this document at the bottom of the first page, unless your dependent is under the age of 14. If your dependent is under the age of 14, you (the J-1 primary) must sign the dependent's DS-2019.



## **After receiving your dependent's DS-2019:**

### **OPTION 1: Your dependent is travelling to Utah from outside the US**

If your dependent is travelling to Utah from outside the US, your dependent will need to apply for a J-2 visa at the US Embassy or Consulate in their country of citizenship. Your dependent will need to bring their new J-2 dependent DS-2019 to their visa interview.

For more information about this process and the additional documents your dependent will need to present at their visa interview, please refer to visa application information on the US embassy or consulate's website, or contact them directly.

### **OPTION 2: Your dependent is already in the US on another visa status**

If your spouse or child is currently in the US on another visa status and wishes to change their visa status to J-2 without departing the US, please schedule an appointment with an ISSS advisor to discuss the process and timeline of the Change of Status application process.

## **Dependents and Travel:**

- Dependents may depart and re-enter the US independently of the J-1 Exchange Visitor as long as the Exchange Visitor is in active status.
- Dependents must carry the following documents when entering the US:
  - **Passport** (valid for at least six months beyond period of stay in the US)
  - Valid **J-2 visa stamp** in their passport
  - **Dependent DS-2019** with valid **Travel Signature**
  - **Copies** of Primary J-1 Exchange Visitor's most current immigration documents: passport, DS-2019, J-1 visa stamp, I-94 (*if travelling separately*)
- If the J-1 Exchange Visitor travels outside the US without their dependent(s): the J-2 dependent(s) may remain in the US, as long as the J-1 is in active status and will return after a temporary absence using the same SEVIS number.
- If the J-1 Exchange Visitor travels outside the US after their official Program End Date and has not applied for an extension or post-completion Academic Training, the dependent must also depart the US at that time, and cannot re-enter on the current program.



## Frequently asked Questions

### → I am engaged. Do I need to be married in order to receive a J-2 dependent DS-2019?

You may request a J-2 dependent DS-2019 without having an official marriage certificate, and your spouse may be added to your SEVIS record before you are legally married. However, you must be legally married and have a physical copy of your marriage certificate by the time you apply for the J-2 visa at your US Embassy or Consulate or before you submit a Change of Status application to USCIS (if dependent is changing status in the US).

### → Is my dependent allowed to study?

Yes, J-2 dependents may study full or part time.

### → Is my dependent allowed to work?

Yes, J-2 dependents are eligible to apply for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) from USCIS in order to be employed in the US as long as the employment is not for the purpose of supporting the Exchange Visitor. The J-2 may not begin employment before receiving approval of their employment authorization application and have received their EAD card. For questions about this process, please schedule an appointment with an ISSS student or scholar advisor.

### → Can I add my unmarried domestic partner, significant other, parent, sibling, cousin, or friend as my J-2 dependent?

No. You cannot add anyone other than your legally married spouse or children (under the age of 21) as your dependent. However, there may be other visa types more appropriate for short term visits of your family members – for further questions, or for J-1 Scholars wishing to request an invitation letter for their family member(s), please speak with an ISSS advisor.

### → My dependent has A) changed visa type, B) permanently departed the US, or C) our relationship has changed. How do I remove my dependent from my SEVIS record?

To remove your dependent from your SEVIS record, please submit the “Remove Dependent Request” E-form through iStart on the ISSS website. You will need to sign, scan, and upload the “Voluntary Termination Request” to this E-form.

If your dependent has **changed their visa status**, you will be asked to upload evidence of this change (I-797 receipt notice showing Change of Status approval).

If you and our dependent spouse have **divorced**, you will be asked to upload a copy of the official divorce decree.

### → I am subject to 212(e). Are my dependents also subject?

Yes. A J-2 dependent’s status is dependent on the J-1’s status. If you are subject to 212(e) (2-year homestay requirement), your dependent(s) will also be subject.