DS-2019 Extension for J-1 Scholars

What is a DS-2019 Extension?

A DS-2019 extension is permission for additional time for a J-1 Exchange Visitor (EV) to complete their original program objectives. The length of the extension is based on a recommendation of the host department and the maximum duration allowed by the EV’s J-1 visa category. The EV must initiate a request for an extension of their program, and the request must be done before the program end date as listed on the DS-2019.

General Guidelines for a DS-2019 Extension:

- Once an extension is approved, a new DS-2019 is issued reflecting the new program end date.
- An extension of your DS-2019 is not an extension of your visa. Although a valid visa is not required to legally remain in the U.S., it is required to re-enter the U.S. after a departure.
- Maximum Program Length - Extensions can be requested for any length of time up to the J-1 Visa category maximum duration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Term Scholar</td>
<td>6 Months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Intern</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Specialist</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Scholar</td>
<td>5 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>5 Years</td>
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- Insurance Requirements - Federal Regulations require that all EVs in J immigration status maintain health insurance for the duration of their EV Program. If your host department at the University of Utah does not provide health insurance, it is your responsibility to purchase and provide proof of health insurance for the duration of your program that meets the minimum requirements set by the Department of State for you and all of your dependents. If you need additional information on health insurance, please e-mail our J-1 Scholar Team or make an appointment with a J-1 Scholar Advisor. These minimum requirements must be met:
  - $100,000 per sickness/illness
  - $100,000 per accident/injury
  - $50,000 for medical evacuation
  - $25,000 for repatriation
  - Maximum $500 deductible
How to Apply for a DS-2019 Extension:

Please submit the DS-2019 Extension E-form using the iStart link found at www.isss.utah.edu. Please be prepared to submit the following information in the E-form:

- **Extension Recommendation Letter**
  The recommendation letter must be printed on official University Letterhead, signed by a department administrator, and include the following:
  - The new research/teaching program end date
  - Brief statement on your progress toward your program objective and why the extension is being recommended.
  - Confirmation of your funding (only if you are funded by the University).
  - Confirmation of health insurance coverage (only if health insurance is part of your benefit package).

- **Proof of funding**
  - If you are funded by the University, your host academic department can confirm the funding in the extension recommendation letter.
  - If you are not funded by the University, you must provide proof, such as government funding, scholarships, grants, or your own personal funds.
  - Proof of minimum funding in the amount of $1,700 per month for each EV and $500 per month for each dependent is required for the entire duration of the extension.

- **Completed and signed Health Insurance Compliance Form** to confirm that you understand the insurance requirements set by the U.S. Department of State.

- **Contact Information** of your supervisor, primary investigator (PI), or department chair.

- **If subject to the 212(e) home residency requirement**, you must confirm in the E-form if you have received or requested a waiver of that requirement.
  **Note:** If you have received a favorable waiver recommendation from the Department of State or if USCIS has approved your 212(e) waiver, you are no longer eligible for an extension of your program even if you have not met the maximum time limit of your J-1 category. If you have questions about 212(e), please see our 212(e) Policy Guide or make an appointment with a J-1 Scholar Advisor for additional information.