Temporary Out of Country Absence for J-1 Scholars

What is a Temporary Absence?

A **Temporary Absence** is a period of time outside the United States of **more than 30 days** with an intent to return to complete an original program objective while keeping the current SEVIS immigration record **ACTIVE** during the absence.

General Guidelines for a Temporary Absence:

If your stay abroad is **MORE** than **30 days** and you intend to return to continue your Exchange Visitor (EV) program objective, you must request and receive authorization for a **Temporary Out of Country Absence** or your **SEVIS immigration record** will become **INACTIVE** and your J-1 program will “complete”.

A completed program will subject EV’s in the **Research Scholar** and **Professor** category to a **24-month bar** on repeat participation in those categories. For a temporary absence of **30 days or less**, authorization for a temporary absence is not necessary, but you must have a valid travel signature in order to re-enter the U.S. Please review the [Travel Survey](#) for more information.

**Please Note:** If there is a pending **Transfer** of your SEVIS immigration record or a request for a change of status or reinstatement, you must contact a J-1 Scholar Advisor to see if you are eligible for the Temporary Absence benefit.

You Are Eligible for a Temporary Absence, if During the Absence:

- You will continue to pursue your original program goals and objectives.
- The research or collaboration will be ongoing and continue to benefit the University of Utah.
- You will maintain the required health insurance for yourself and your dependents that meets the U.S. Department of State requirements for the duration of your EV program, even when abroad. This requirement cannot be waived.
- You report any changes to your out of country site of activity **site of activity** and return date to ISSS.
- You will remain under the supervision of your supervisor or PI at the University of Utah.

How to Apply for a Temporary Absence:

Please submit the **Temporary Out of Country Absence** E-form using the iStart link ![iStart Login](#) found at [www.isss.utah.edu](http://www.isss.utah.edu). Please be prepared to submit the following information in the E-form:

- Begin and end date of your temporary absence
- Address of your site of activity (your physical location) outside of the U.S.
- Health insurance information and confirmation of **continued coverage** for you and your dependents during your temporary absence.
- Contact information of your supervisor or PI.

Please Note: This policy is for **J-1 Scholars** only (Research Scholar, Professor, Short-term Scholar, Student Intern, and Specialist. If you are a J-1 Student, please refer to the **J-1 Student Policies and Forms**. 08/02/2019