The purpose of the Exchange Visitor (EV) Program is to provide visitors to the U.S. with an opportunity to participate in educational and cultural programs and to share their experiences upon their return home, as well as to encourage Americans to participate in educational and cultural programs in their country.
**DID YOU KNOW...**

A form **DS-2019** is a Certificate of Eligibility for a J-1 Exchange Visitor Program. It is called a certificate of eligibility because it demonstrates that one is eligible for an academic or employment based program in the U.S. and is used to apply for a J-1 visa at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate abroad. Also, if you have dependents, they will have their own DS-2019 to apply for a J-2 visa and obtain J-2 dependent status.

If you need more time to complete your J-1 Exchange Visitor program objectives, you may be eligible for a **DS-2019 extension**. The length of extension is based on a recommendation of the host department and the maximum program length* allowed by your J-1 visa category.

You must initiate a request for an extension of your program, and the request must be done **before** the program end date as listed on your DS-2019.

* **Maximum Program Length**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short-Term Scholar</td>
<td>6 Months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Intern</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** 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.

A form DS-2019 is one of three immigration documents, along with your I-94 and J-1 visa, that work together to allow you to enter and participate in an exchange program in the U.S. Please review our [DS-2019 Extension Policy Guide](#) as well as our main [J-1 Policy Webpage](#) for more information.
IN THE NEWS...

**Vice Presidential Debate to be Hosted at the University of Utah Campus**

The nonpartisan, nonprofit [Commission on Presidential Debates](https://www.debates.org) (CPD) selected the University of Utah to host the vice presidential debate on October 7, 2020, at Kingsbury Hall, Nancy Peery Marriott Auditorium.

The CPD was established in 1987 and has sponsored and produced all general election presidential and vice presidential debates since then. The CPD receives no funding from the government or any political party or campaign.

The debate will start at 7:00 PM MST and will run for 90 minutes without commercial interruption. The 2020 vice presidential debate is made possible through a partnership with the [University of Utah’s Hinckley Institute of Politics](https://hinckleyinstitute.org) and the [Utah Debate Commission](https://utahdebatecommission.org).

Further information on this event can be found [here](https://www.debates.org/2020-vice-presidential-debate). The event will be livestreamed on television and most news outlets online.

**ISSS U.S Political Webinar Series**

ISSS is hosting a U.S. Political Webinar Series to help explain how the U.S. political system and the election process works. ISSS is thrilled to bring together panelists from across the U and within Salt Lake City to share their knowledge over the upcoming weeks. The different webinar topics include: Security & Voting Rights in the 2020 Election, Basic Overview of the U.S. Political System and U.S. Elections, International Student Rights & Responsibilities in Political Demonstrations, Understanding U.S. Media & Consumerism, and International Student Advocacy.

Visit the [ISSS U.S. Political Webinar Series](https://www.iiss.org/Events/ISSS-U.S.-Political-Webinar-Series) webpage for further details on registration and how to join virtually through Zoom!
FUN FAMILY THINGS TO DO DURING FALL...

One of the best things about Utah is being able to enjoy each of the four distinct seasons (winter, spring, summer, and FALL). Fall tends to be a favorite amongst many Utahns. The season is full of various activities as well as the beautiful color changes. With temperatures finally going down, and before winter hits, it is a great time to be outside and explore the different things Utah has to offer.

During this season you will find various activities related to corn mazes, pumpkins, and haunted attractions such as: Cornbelly's at Thanksgiving Point, the Gardner Village Witchfest, Salt Lake City Pumpkin Nights, Cross E Ranch Fall Festival, and various Haunted Houses! This time of year is also wonderful for finding beautiful hiking trails on the various mountains surrounding the valley. Check out this website for even more ideas for fun fall activities.
PLEASE REMEMBER TO ALWAYS...

- Update ISSS of any change in your physical address, phone number, and e-mail address within 10 calendar days of the change through UAtlas.

- Request a travel signature on your DS-2019 if you plan to depart the U.S. and return to continue your exchange program. When you submit your DS-2019 for a travel signature, we will provide a travel survey for you to complete. The travel survey lists information helpful to know to successfully re-enter the U.S.

- Maintain health insurance that meets the requirements of the Exchange Visitor Program for the entire duration of your stay as indicated by the begin date and end date listed on your DS-2019.

- Visit the ISSS website for information and resources related to your J-1 visa.