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 through [UAtlas](#).

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