Transfer-OUT for J-1 Exchange Visitor (EV) Scholars

Who can “transfer out” their SEVIS record from the University of Utah?

J-1 Exchange Visitors may transfer to another institution in the U.S. as long as the purpose of a transfer is to continue the original program goals and objectives of an exchange program and if the EV remains within the same participant category (Research Scholar, Professor, Short-term Scholar, Student Intern, and Specialist).

Please Note: If you are unsure if a new program would be a continuation of the goals and objectives of a current program, please complete a Transfer Survey to assess both programs.

General Guidelines for a Transfer OUT:

- We recommend to communicate with the Alternate Responsible Officer (international scholar advisor) at the University of Utah at least one month before the start of an appointment at a new institution, as both institutions must collaborate on all SEVIS transfers.
- There must be no gap between the end date of the current program at the University of Utah and the transfer effective (begin date) date at the new institution. Both institutions will communicate as to the appropriate transfer effective date.
- A new DS-2019 will be issued to you on or after the transfer effective date.
- You are not allowed to begin a new Exchange Visitor Program at a new institution until the transfer effective (begin) date has been reached.

How to Apply for a Transfer OUT:

To facilitate a SEVIS transfer of your Exchange Visitor Program to a new institution, please submit a Transfer-Out SEVIS Record E-form through UAtlas.

- Exchange Visitor: Please be prepared to submit the following information in the E-form:
  - End Date of the Exchange Visitor Program at the University of Utah and the Begin Date of your Exchange Visitor Program at the new institution
  - Name of the new institution
  - Program Number of the new institution (in most cases, begins with a P-1)
  - Brief statement and confirmation that the transfer WILL, or WILL NOT, be a continuation of your original program objectives
  - Invitation or appointment letter from the new institution (the program begin date listed in the E-form must match the begin date in your letter)
  - Transfer-in eligibility document from the new institution (optional, and if requested by your new institution)

Disclaimer: International Student & Scholar Services provides support and information related to U.S. immigration laws and regulations related to F and J status. ISSS staff are not attorneys and any information provided by us should not be construed as legal advice. Individuals are welcome to consult a qualified immigration attorney for specific legal advice, particularly in complicated cases. For a list of local Utah attorneys please visit our website here.
Frequently Asked Questions:

1. **Can I travel while my transfer is pending?**

   **Yes.** However, please be cautious. If you depart the U.S. while your SEVIS transfer is pending, you must re-enter the U.S. on the DS-2019 of your new institution. A delay in travel, especially for a delay in travel of more than 30 days past the transfer effective date, may result in a “no show” status and/or completion of your J-1 exchange visitor program, which could result in an end to your legal visa status.

2. **Can I transfer out if I am subject to the 212(e) home residency requirement?**

   **Yes.** The 212(e) home residency requirement does not affect your ability to transfer out to another institution. For more information, please see our 212(e) Policy Guide.

3. **Can I transfer out if I have submitted a waiver for the 212(e) home residency requirement?**

   We are not aware that a SEVIS transfer would adversely impact a 212(e) waiver application in pending status (not yet awarded by USCIS or receiving a Favorable Recommendation from DOS; however, we suggest consulting an immigration attorney for additional guidance.

4. **Can I transfer out if I have received a Favorable Recommendation of a 212(e) waiver request from the U.S. Department of State (DOS), or if USCIS has approved my 212(e) waiver?**

   We are not aware of restrictions to a SEVIS transfer in this case, although some EV Programs will not accept transfers after a Favorable Recommendation. Please also be aware that a transfer to another institution could possibly re-subject an EV to 212(e). Also keep in mind that extensions will not be granted after a Favorable Recommendation or waiver award. For further guidance, we suggest consulting a qualified immigration attorney.

5. **Can I transfer out if I have reached the maximum program length of my visa category?**

   **No.** Since a transfer should be for the continuation of your J-1 Exchange Visitor Program, reaching the maximum length of your J-1 visa category would make you ineligible to transfer to another Exchange Visitor Program. For other options, please consult an ISSS Scholar Advisor or a qualified immigration attorney.

6. **Can I receive an extension beyond my current program end date once I have transferred out?**

   Extensions can be requested for any length of time up to the J-1 visa category maximum duration; however, your eligibility to extend would be assessed by your new institution.

7. **Can I transfer to another Exchange Visitor Program during my 30 day Grace Period?**

   **No.** A transfer cannot be completed if an exchange visitor’s status in SEVIS is not active, and as a result, transfers during the 30 day grace period would not be permissible.