

Hosting (J1) Visiting Scholars: Easier Than You Think

Visiting Scholars add value to research programs and create lifelong international connections. While the “exchange visitor” visa is relatively easy to acquire, it carries DOS and NDSU requirements. This session discusses program requirements, Export Controls, and tips for a positive, productive experience.

Benefits of Hosting Visiting Scholars

- Shared interests; similar research
- Academic collaborations
- Institutional exchanges
- Potential to gain future graduate students
- Destination to send your own graduate students
- Cultural exchange

Contact Information

- Contact Faculty Immigration at least **3+ months** before commencement of proposed visit. Keep in mind that the more advanced notice we have, the better chance for the scholar to apply for the travel visa in a timely manner and arrive on time
 - General Email Account NDSU.Immigration@ndsu.edu
 - **Tabitha Thomas** (Director) Tabitha.Thomas@ndsu.edu (231-8052)
 - **Amy Knudson** (Scholar Advisor) Amy.Knudson.1@ndsu.edu (231-9486)
 - [Faculty Immigration](#) or [Immigration, Faculty](#) on NDSU home page index

Eligible Categories for Hosting Visiting Scholars

- **Short-Term Scholar**
 - 1 day to 6 months, maximum
 - No extensions allowed after 6 months
- **Research Scholar (research only)**
 - 6+ months – 5 years, maximum
 - After formal exchange program ends, the scholar will be subject to a 24-month bar/ban on repeat participation in this category
- **Visiting Professor (research and teaching)**
 - (same as research scholar)
- **Student Intern**
 - For non-enrolled Undergraduate (UG) Students whose home university requires a study abroad participation
 - UG Student CANNOT earn a degree while at NDSU
 - 12 months, maximum
- **Specialist**
 - Consult, observe or demonstrate *specialized* knowledge – i.e. performer, composer, actor/actress, etc.
 - 12 months, maximum

EMPLOYMENT OF INTERNATIONAL FACULTY and SCHOLARS

Within the context of immigration vocabulary, the terms “status” or “classification” define a non-U.S. citizen’s legal status in the United States and describe the Foreign National’s presumed principal purpose for being in this country. The two most commonly used nonimmigrant statuses at NDSU, for employment purposes, are J-1 “Exchange Visitor” and H-1B “Alien in a Specialty Occupation (Profession).” The following is a list of factors to consider when proposing to hire or host an international professor or researcher. **Most importantly, to avoid any potential problems, please make certain to involve the Faculty Immigration unit, as soon as possible, in the hiring process.** When bringing an international candidate on campus for an interview, please consider scheduling an interview with us, as well. Contact us at ndsuiimmigration@ndsui.edu

Visa Status	Appropriate Uses	Limitations	Procedures
H-1B Specialty Occupation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenure Track Faculty Permanent Research Positions Permanent Lecturers Other specialized occupations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6-yr time limit Dept. pays \$960 filing fees to USCIS USCIS adjudication times vary Optional \$2,500 premium processing available, which guarantees response from USCIS within 15 business days (employee can pay depending on scenario) Generally, H-4 Dependents can study, but CANNOT work in the US Certain H4 dependent spouses can work with employment authorization from USCIS (limited exception, talk with int’l advisor) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department works with our office in petitioning for Dept. of Labor (DoL) approval and subsequent Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS) approval. Immigration document issued by DHS. If int’l person is outside U.S., he/she must apply for an entry visa (H-1B) at U.S. Consulate abroad.
TN NAFTA - USMCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Canadian and Mexican citizens in specific professional positions Teaching and research quality TN- eligible Professions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-yr time limit, with unlimited extensions DOES NOT APPLY TO CANADIAN LANDED-IMMIGRANTS TD Dependents can study, but CANNOT WORK in the US 	<p>After position has been determined to be appropriate use of TN status,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canadian citizens apply for TN status at the Port of Entry to the U.S. Mexican citizens must work with our office to apply for additional approvals from DoL & DHS
F-1 OPT (Int’l Students with Optional Practical Training)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typically used by international postdoctoral/post-graduate students for initial employment after degree program Allows employment in field of study after degree completion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-yr time limit 24-month extension possible for those with STEM degree (determined by CIP code on I-20) F2 Dependents CANNOT work F2 Dependents CAN study – with limitations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Student applies through their own university for one year of work authorization after course completion Permission issued by DHS in the form of an Employment Authorization Document (EAD card).
J1 Exchange Visitor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positions of a temporary nature Grant-funded research Short-term scholars Visiting scientists and researchers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5-yr time limit (Research Scholar & Visiting Professor categories, only) Possible subjectivity to Regulation 212(e) - aka “two year home country physical presence rule” J-2 Dependents CAN study and work in the US after obtaining work authorization (EAD card) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department works with our office. Faculty Immigration unit issues immigration documents Process approx. six weeks minimum Entry visa often required, as person is usually outside the U.S.