

SSN Document for Virginia Tech J-1 Short Term Scholars, Research Scholars, and Professors

Based on the information from SSA's Program Operations Manual System (POMS), a sponsor letter is only required as evidence for employment authorization for J-1 exchange visitors whose category (item #4 on the DS-2019) is Research Scholar, Professor, or Short Term Scholar. Documentation from POMS is below.

SSA - POMS: RM 10211.345 - Evidence of Employment Authorization f... <https://secure.ssa.gov/poms.nsf/lnx/0110211345>

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Effective Dates: 09/09/2011 - Present
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RM 10211.345 Evidence of Employment Authorization for the J1 (Exchange Visitor) and J2 (Dependent of J1) Classes of Admission

A. DS-2019 (Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J1) Status) entries indicating employment authorization for a J1 which do not require a sponsor letter

A J1 is employment authorized and a sponsor letter is not required if Item 4 on the DS-2019 identifies one of the following 12 categories. To enter these in the Enumeration system, select "Other" for the category in the Proof of Legal Alien Status. For more information, see [RM 10211.365D](#).

- Alien Physician
- Au Pair
- Camp Counselor
- Government Visitor
- Intern
- Professor
- Research Scholar
- Short-term Scholar
- Specialist
- Summer Work/Travel
- Teacher
- Trainee

B. DS-2019 entries requiring a sponsor letter as employment authorization for a J1

1. A sponsor's letter authorizing employment is required when one of the following categories is identified in Item 4 on the Form DS-2019:

- **Student, College/University-Five degree levels- Associate; Bachelors, Master; Doctorate; and Non-Degree** (NOTE: A J-1 exchange visitor who is in the U.S. as a high school student identified in Item 4 of the DS-2019 as, "Student, Secondary", is not authorized to work while in the US other than for occasional baby-sitting job or similar job of a sporadic nature that does not require an SSN.)
- **Student Intern**
- **International Visitor** (NOTE: J-1 exchange visitors who are shown on the DS-2019 as "International Visitor" are sponsored exclusively by the U.S. Department of State (DOS) and are in the US generally for only two to three weeks. Thus, it is unlikely that such an exchange visitor would be employed, have a sponsor's letter and apply for an SSN.)

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