

This information is for Bryant University International Students only.

OBTAINING a J-1 EXCHANGE VISITOR VISA

Upon receipt of your DS-2019 Certificate of Eligibility from Bryant University Office of International Affairs, you'll need a J-1 visa to enter the United States. New J-1 visas can be acquired only at a US embassy or consulate outside the US. It is not possible to renew a J-1 visa by mail or in person once in the US. Every US embassy has different visa application procedures, with many requiring appointments for visa processing.

Be sure to contact the US embassy or consulate overseas where you plan to apply so that you can ask about additional information and if an appointment is required. Plan ahead and allow ample time to secure your visa.

For more information, please visit: <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/applying-for-a-visa-to-travel-to-the-united-states>

Review DS-2019

1. Verify all the information and notify the Office of International Affairs immediately, if you find an error.
2. Read carefully all information on page 2. This will explain YOUR legal responsibilities as a J-1 Exchange Visitor in the U.S.
3. Sign the bottom of page 1

SEVIS FEE

Each Exchange Visitor issued an initial DS-2019 is responsible for paying the SEVIS fee prior to applying for a J visa at the U.S. embassy or consulate. Applicants need a visa to enter the U.S. should pay the SEVIS fee at least three (3) days before visiting the U.S. embassy or consulate for their visa interview. The SEVIS fee is a separate fee in addition to any other visa application/processing fees. For more information, visit:

<http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/index.htm>

Obtaining a J-1 Exchange Student Visa

We recommend that you contact a U.S. embassy or consulate as soon as possible. Processing times for visa issuance vary and may require additional time due to security checks on applications. For the latest information on visa processing, required materials, and current listings of U.S. embassies and consulates abroad, we recommend the following web link from the U.S. Department of State (DOS): <http://usembassy.state.gov/>

Canadian citizens do not require a J-1 entry visa to enter the U.S. from Canada, but do require a DS-2019 form, passport, financial documentation and proof of SEVIS fee payment and must follow certain procedures.

Please visit DOS website at <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/study-exchange/exchange.html> for the required documentation.

ENTERING THE UNITED STATES

Please be advised that you may not enter the U.S. more than 30 days prior to the begin date on your DS-2019 item #3 and not later than 15 days after the begin date.

When you arrive in the U.S., you will be required to present the following documents to a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP) Officer at the port of entry. Since you must show your documents before you are allowed to claim your bags, do not pack these documents in suitcases that are checked in.

- Passport with valid J-1 visa
- Original DS-2019 form
- SEVIS fee payment receipt
- Evidence of financial resources

I-94 Arrival/Departure Record

Upon arrival, you will be enrolled in the US-VISIT entry-exit program. Once USCBP officer examines your documents and allows you to enter the U.S., the CBP official will determine the length of your visit on the electronic Arrival-Departure Record (I-94 Form). Since the I-94 Form documents your visa status and authorized stay in the U.S., you must access your I-94 at www.cbp.gov/I94, print and keep it in your passport once you arrive at Bryant. For more information on arrival procedure, visit http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/study_exchange/exchange_arrivals.xml.

Once you are permitted to enter the U.S. and granted J-1 visa STATUS, it's imperative that you understand your legal responsibilities as a J-1 student to maintain your J-1 status while in the U.S.

Arrival at Bryant University

You are legally REQUIRED to register your immigration documents with Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) upon arrival at Bryant University. You MUST bring your passport, DS-2019 and I-94 form to OISS. The registration process is completed at the time of check in for all new Undergraduate Students including transfer international students during the program called 4MILE@BRYANT. For Graduate Students, this MUST be done within the first two weeks of classes. OISS will help you with all immigration-related matters during your studies at Bryant University, however, it is YOUR responsibility to maintain your status.

Please feel free to contact the Office of International Affairs with any questions. We look forward to meeting you soon and hope that your time at Bryant University will be academically and personally rewarding.