

PRE-ARRIVAL



Northeastern
UNIVERSITY

International Student & Scholar Institute
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617-373-2310 (office), 617-373-8788 (fax)

Pre-Arrival Instructions for J-1 Scholars: ISSI Form 509

The following information is sent to you in addition to your *Welcome letter*. It contains very important instructions regarding the SEVIS application fee (See Section IV) and other matters which you must take special note of in order not to have any difficulties before or after your arrival to the United States.

I. SEVIS Form DS-2019

Enclosed please find the **SEVIS Form DS-2019**. As the J-1 principal visa holder, you should sign your name *in blue ink* and date the bottom of page 1 of the *original* Form DS-2019, *after reading all the Instructions on page 2*. Please present the enclosed Form DS-2019 with your passport and appointment letter from Northeastern University to the U.S. Embassy or Consulate. You should also present these forms to the Immigration Inspector at the United States port of entry.

II. Unexpected Arrival Delays

When applying for the J-1 visa, please follow all the instructions at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate and allow yourself sufficient time to arrive. If your waiting time at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate delays your visa issuance or you are undergoing security clearance or you cannot obtain a plane ticket or if for any other reason you are unable to arrive within 15 days of the start date indicated on Item 3, page 1 of your Form DS-2019, please notify your Northeastern University host and notify us by email at issi@neu.edu with the date you are able to arrive and we will send you an amended Form DS-2019 with a new start date. ***Do not attempt to arrive later than 15 days after the start date of your visa document.***

III. Sufficient Funding to Remain in the U.S.

You are required to have at least \$14,500 per year throughout your stay. Funding for your dependent spouse is \$6,500 per year and at least \$3,500 per year for each child (under 21 years of age).

IV. Fees

Visa Application Fee: Ask the U.S. Embassy or Consulate about this fee and payment options. Visit the web site of the specific embassy or consulate where you will apply for your visa and familiarize yourself with the process.

SEVIS Fee: After September 1, 2004, J-1 visa holders are subject to pay a SEVIS fee. For complete and detailed information, please refer to the following web site: <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/index.htm>

IMPORTANT: *The SEVIS fee must be processed at least 3 business days before the U.S. Embassy or Consulate interview - unless you have a printed receipt that verifies you have paid through the internet. You will not be able to pay your SEVIS fee at the time of your interview at the U.S. Embassy/Consulate or at the U.S. port of entry.*

V. Statement of Health Insurance Compliance Form

Be prepared to show health insurance coverage from your home country during your appointment at the International Student & Scholar Institute. If you are not covered by a plan that fulfills *all* the requirements, on the health insurance compliance form which you were asked to sign, be sure to obtain the ***Health Insurance Options Information Sheet for Scholars*** at your appointment to review other health plan options or supplemental plans should you already be covered by a plan.

Please be aware that health plans offered to employees by Northeastern University do not cover *all* aspects of the insurance coverage needed for J-1 scholars, and therefore, do not fulfill the mandatory health insurance requirement. This sheet will provide you with health plans and contacts for you to review.

Please be aware that health insurance in the U.S. is costly and you may be able to obtain a less expensive insurance coverage in your home country. You may also inquire about health insurance plans for J-1 Exchange Visitors when you make your appointment at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate. There may be some plans available for J-1 scholars who are visiting the U.S. temporarily.