

Academic Training for Students in J-1 Status

Academic Training permits a Student on an Exchange Visitor Program (on J status) to engage in off-campus employment in his/her field of study. Such training can be taken during or after the course of study.

Eligibility

1. Your primary purpose in the United States must be study and not Academic Training.
2. You must be in good academic standing at Calvin Theological Seminary
3. The proposed employment must be directly related to your major field of study.
4. You must maintain health insurance coverage for yourself and any J-2 dependents throughout your Academic Training.

Limitations

1. Academic Training may not exceed the period of a full course of study, or 18 months, whichever is shorter. If you receive a Ph.D. however, your post-doctoral training may last as long as 36 months if it is a postdoctoral position at a research institution. You may also go over 18 months if the academic training is a requirement of your program.
2. Part-time employment for Academic Training counts against the 18 or 36 month limit the same as full-time employment.
3. Earning more than one degree does not increase your eligibility for Academic Training.

After completion of your program of study...

1. Academic Training approved **after** completion of your program must be reduced by any **prior** periods of Academic Training.
2. Academic Training following completion of your program of study must involve **paid** employment.
3. You must obtain a written offer of appropriate employment, a recommendation for the training from your academic advisor, and a DS-2019 extending your stay for the duration of the academic training **before the expiration date of your DS-2019**.
4. If you plan to leave the United States after you complete your program of study and reenter the country for J-1 Academic Training, you must obtain employment authorization before you leave. Otherwise you will have difficulty re-entering. Consult your J-1 Responsible Officer for advice.

The application

1. Obtain a letter of offer from your prospective employer that includes the following: your job title, a brief description of the goals and objectives of your training program, dates and location of the employment, the number of hours per week, and the name and address of your training supervisor.
2. If this academic training is part of your M.Div. or M.A. program please give a copy of your employer's letter to the Director of Formation for Ministry and he will complete an Academic Training Recommendation Form and return it to the International Student Advisor office.
3. If this is post-completion academic training and not part of your program at Calvin Seminary, please bring the letter directly to the International Student Advisor office.
4. We will then complete a new DS-2019 for you indicating the training period. Your family members will also receive a new DS-2019 at this time.

Address and Employment Changes

While you are doing your Academic Training the Department of Homeland Security considers you our responsibility and we must update your SEVIS record every time you move or change employment.