



United States Department of State

*Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20547*

www.state.gov

J-1 Exchange Visitor Program ***Summer Work/Travel***

The Summer Work/Travel program is designed to achieve the educational objectives of international exchange by involving foreign college/university students directly in the daily life of the people of the United States through travel and temporary work opportunities. Last year the United States welcomed more than 150,000 foreign students under this program.

As a reminder, program participants may work anywhere in the United States. However, Department regulations prohibit employment as domestic help in U.S. households or in positions requiring you to invest your own money for inventory, such as door-to-door sales. Except for participation in the Alien Physician exchange program -- which is not open to Summer Work/Travel participants -- any employment involving patient care is prohibited in the Exchange Visitor Program. Most students typically work in non-skilled service positions at resorts, hotels, restaurants, and amusement parks. However, summer internships in U.S. businesses and other organizations (i.e., architecture, science research, graphic art/publishing and other media communication, advertising, computer software and electronics, and legal offices, etc.) are allowed, so long as the internship does not exceed the maximum four-month program duration, and is completed during the student's summer vacation.

Our sponsors advise us that due to the continuing economic downturn in the United States, they anticipate a weak summer job market. As a university student we encourage you to research general economic conditions to better form your decision regarding participation in this Program this year.

If you are a participant for whom employment has been pre-arranged, you should confirm with your United States sponsor or the proposed employer that the employment offer and the number of work hours offered is still valid. If you are a participant for whom employment has not been prearranged and you enter the United States and are not be able to find employment you should be prepared to live on your savings until your return home.

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