

University of South Florida
International Services
J-1 Exchange Visitor Program No. P-1-03445
J Scholar Social Security Information

Obtaining a Social Security Number for a J-1 Scholar

J-1 scholars who will be employed by USF are required to obtain a social security number. J-1 scholars who will not be working are not required to obtain a social security number.

The SSN is used to track earnings for workers. It is not necessary for non-work reasons such as renting an apartment, obtaining a driver's license, opening a bank account, etc.

Please be aware that you cannot go to the Social Security office until at least two days after checking in at International Services.

Bring your immigration documents (passport, visa, I-94 and DS2019) along with your letter of invitation from your academic department to the Social Security office and complete an application.

SSA may need some time to verify your status before they can issue your Social Security card. In most cases, the card will be mailed to your address within 14 business days. If you will be employed by USF, you should show the receipt you receive at the Social Security office to show Human Resources temporarily.

* If the Social Security representative has trouble understanding your J-1 information, be sure to point out your Exchange Visitor Category, located in Box 4 on the DS2019. You might also point out SSA's policy for J-1 scholars (see below).

SSA's Program Operations Manual System - POMS SECTION: RM 10211.345

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

<https://secure.ssa.gov/poms.nsf/lnx/0110211345>