

J-1 Teacher Exchange BridgeUSA

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Topic Items to be Covered

- What is the J-1 visitor program?
- How is the program governed?
- Obligations/Responsibilities
 - Sponsors
 - Teachers
 - Hosts
- Cost
- Resources
- Contact Info

What is the Program?

- The J-1 Visa provides countless opportunities for international candidates looking to travel and gain experience in the United States.
- The multifaceted programs enable foreign nationals to come to the U.S. to teach, study, conduct research, demonstrate special skills or receive on-the-job training for periods ranging from a few weeks to several years.
- ND had 49 teacher participants for the 2020-2021 school year.

How is the Program Governed?

- Overseen by the Federal Department of State.
- Programs must adhere to strict guidelines outlined in CFR 62.1-62.63:
 - Sponsor obligations; administration; reporting requirements; teacher requirements.
- US State Department approves all J-1 sponsors.
- Sponsors are allocated a specific amount of J-1 visas.
- Sponsors must be designated by the Department of State and within good standing.
- Sponsors must reapply every two years to be re-designated.
- Sponsors must submit annual reports to the Dept. of State.

Sponsors Obligations:

- Responsible for screening and selecting qualified candidates.
- Verify each teacher applicant's English language proficiency through recognized language tests and interviews.
- Monitor all visitors' stay in the US.
- Ensure each exchange teacher completes a cultural activity component annually.
- Obtain a "No-Objection" letter from the State Education Agency (Federal Guidance Directive 2019-01).
- Submit a Department of State designation letter to the State Education Agency (NDDPI requirement).

Sponsors Must Provide Participants With:

- Duration of school year and location of the school.
- A summary of the significant component of the program including:
 - Fees and costs.
 - Written statement of teaching requirements in placement state.
- Written statement that clearly outlines the compensation package to participants.

J-1 Teacher Responsibilities

- Meet the qualifications for teaching in primary or secondary schools in their country of nationality or last legal residence with two years of experience,
- Have a degree-equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree in either education or the academic subject field in which they intend to teach.
- Have a minimum of two years (24 months) of teaching or related professional experience.

J-1 Teacher Responsibilities

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- Satisfy the standards of the U.S. state in which they will teach.
- Be of good reputation and character.
- Be seeking to enter the United States for the purpose of full-time teaching as a teacher of record at a primary (including pre-kindergarten) or secondary accredited educational institution in the United States.
- Possess sufficient proficiency in the English language.

Host School Responsibilities

- Work with ESPB, sponsor, and teacher to ensure all teacher licensure requirements are met.
- Accreditation. All host schools must be accredited.
- Provide an inviting environment.
- Involve teachers in school and community cultural activities.
- Monitor, evaluate, and provide feedback.
- Allow all teachers to join the local chapter of their Union.

Host School Cost?

- Work with sponsor. Each sponsor has own rates, some may not charge at all.

Resources

- BridgeUSA <https://j1visa.state.gov/programs/teacher>
- Federal Code, CFR 62:
<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-22/chapter-I/subchapter-G/part-62#62.24>
- See the approved sponsor list in Blast.

Current J-1 Visa Sponsors Approved by DPI

- Alliance Abroad Group: <https://allianceabroad.com>
- Amity Institute: <https://amity.org>
- Cultural Vistas: <https://culturalvistas.org>
- Greenheart Exchange: <https://greenheartexchange.org>
- HTP-USA: <https://www.j1teachers.com>
- Institute of International Education: <https://www.iie.org>
- Intrax Inc.: <https://www.intraxinc.com>
 - Center for International Career Development: <https://www.cicdgo.com/>
 - Teacher Quest USA: <http://www.teachquestusa.com/>
- ITES – International Teacher Exchange Services: <https://www.itesonline.com>
- J-1 Visa Exchanges: <https://www.j1visaexchanges.com>
- Teachers Council: <https://teacherscouncil.com/j1>

This document is also an attachment.

If you have questions, please contact [Joe Kolosky](#) at (701) 328-2755.

Questions?

Contact Information

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