

Wayne State University
Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS)

J-1: Change of Category

The following information regarding J-1 Change of Category is taken from the Federal Register/Rules and Regulations:

- (a) The Department of State may, at its discretion, permit an exchange visitor to change his or her category of exchange participation. Any change in category must be clearly consistent with and closely related to the participant's original exchange objective, and necessary due to unusual or exceptional circumstances.
 - (b) A request for change of category along with supporting justification must be submitted to the Department of State by the participant's sponsor. Upon Department of State approval the sponsor shall issue to the exchange visitor a duly executed Form DS-2019 reflecting such change of category and provide a notification copy of such form to the Department of State.
 - (c) Requests for change of category from research scholar to student will be evaluated recognizing the fact that, in some cases, research skills can be substantially enhanced by doctoral study.
 - (d) An exchange visitor who applies for a change of category pursuant to these regulations is considered to be maintaining lawful status during the pendency of the application.
 - (e) An exchange visitor who applies for a change of category and who subsequently receives notice from the Department of State that the request has been denied is considered to be maintaining lawful status for an additional period of 30 days from the day of such notice, during which time the exchange visitor is expected to depart the country, or for a period of 30 days from expiration of the exchange visitor's Form DS-2019, whichever is later.
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- (a) The Department of State (DOS) may, in its discretion, permit an exchange visitor to change his or her category of exchange participation. **Any change in category must be clearly consistent with and closely related to the participant's original exchange objective and necessary due to unusual or exceptional circumstances.**
 - (b) A request for change of category along with supporting justification must be submitted to the DOS by the participant's sponsor, i.e., Office of International Students and Scholars. See item 2 of Form DS-2019 (formerly IAP-66). Upon DOS's approval the sponsor shall issue to the exchange visitor a duly executed Form DS-2019 reflecting such change of category and provide a notification copy of such form to DOS through SEVIS (Student Exchange Visitor Information System).
 - (c) Requests for change of category from research scholar to student will be evaluated recognizing the fact that in some cases, research skills can be substantially enhanced by doctoral study.

- (d) An exchange visitor who applies for a change of category pursuant to these regulations is considered to be maintaining lawful status during the pendency of the application.
- (e) An exchange visitor who applies for a change of category and who subsequently receives notice from the DOS that the request has been denied is considered to be maintaining lawful status for an additional period of thirty days from the day of such notice, during which time the exchange visitor is expected to depart the country, or for a period of thirty days from expiration of the exchange visitors' Form DS-2019, whichever is later.

In order to apply for a change of category:

1. See an OISS Scholar Advisor to discuss your reasons for wishing to make this change and determine if this is the best option for you. If your Program Sponsor (see item 2 of your Form DS-2019) is an agency or organization other than WSU, you should consult that sponsor who will make the final determination. Changes of Category are not available to short-term scholars or trainees.
2. When visiting the OISS Scholar Advisor, bring the following:
 - All copies of previous Forms DS-2019;
 - A statement of purpose (why are you applying for a change of category?);
 - A recommendation from a faculty member who supports your request to change category. Read rules and regulations (above); and
 - A check or IRB for \$198 made payable to OISS.
3. After the Scholar Advisor has reviewed the above material and is satisfied that the reasons for the change of category are consistent with your original exchange objectives, the advisor will update the DS-2019 in the SEVIS (Student Exchange Visitor Information System) and mail documentation to DOS at the address below.

U.S. Department of State
Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation
ECA/EC/AG - SA-44, Room 820
301 4th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20547
4. You and your faculty advisor will be notified by OISS on DOS action. If DOS approves the change of category, it will become effective immediately. If it is not approved, consult the Scholar Advisor.