



F-1 and J-1 Visa Comparison

	F-1 VISA	J-1 VISA
Funding	Funded either by personal or outside funds or a combination	Cannot be self-funded unless in an exchange program through institutional agreements such as Abroad at AU or Washington Semester Program. Substantial portion of financial support must be from an external funding source, such as institutional or home government
On-Campus Employment	Up to 20 hours per week while school is in session. May work full-time during vacation periods.	Up to 20 hours per week while school is in session. May work full-time during vacation periods.
Off-Campus Employment	Yes, after completing 1 academic year in full-time status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curricular Practical Training (CPT) • Optional Practical Training (OPT) • Unforeseen Economic Hardship 	Yes, Academic Training.
Dependent Employment & Study	Dependents (F-2's) are not eligible for employment. Eligible to study part-time in the U.S. or full-time if student is from Kindergarten to 12th grade.	Dependents (J-2s) are eligible to apply for permission to work in the U.S. through duration of primary J-1 holder's program. This permission is obtained through USCIS. Eligible to study part-time or full-time in the U.S.
Completion of Studies	Leave U.S. within 60 days.	Leave U.S. within 30 days.
Requirement to Return Home at Completion of Studies	No requirement to return home upon program completion. May apply for another program or change visa status.	J-1 and J-2 status will be subject to the two-year home residence requirement, also known as 212(e), if any of the following apply: Participation in the exchange program is financed, directly or indirectly, by the U.S. government or a foreign government. The skills the Exchange Visitor (EV) is coming to develop or exercise are in a field, which the EV's home government requested be included on the State Department's skills list (skills in short supply in home country). The EV comes to the U.S. to receive graduate medical education or training.