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How to Apply for an Initial J-1 Entry Visa

Complete, Correct, ITEM DESCRIPTION **Compliant?** STEP 1 Obtain your DS-2019 from SCANEX Rotary Youth Exchange from your **Country Coordinator**. Obtain **DS-2019** All individuals requesting J-1 status will be issued a DS-2019. The DS-2019 is a document that details the nature of your visit and verifies that you have documented eligibility to obtain J-1 status. You will use your DS-2019 to apply for the J-1 visa at a U.S. consulate and must be received before you apply for your visa. **STEP 2** Your DS-2019 indicates that SCANEX Rotary Youth Exchange has created a record for you in SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System), a national database for international Check your form students and scholars. DS-2019 for Your unique assigned SEVIS ID number is in the upper right corner of page 1. See RED completeness and **BOX** on SAMPLE DS-2019. correctness. Check to see that all information is **correct** (name, spelling, date of birth, place of birth, etc.) and that your expected completion date is in the future. You will need to sign the DS-2019 with your name, city and country of your location, and the date of signature at the bottom of Page 1 once you have read the "Exchange Visitor Certification" statement on page 2. See **BLUE BOX** on SAMPLE DS-2019.

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For more information, visit: http://j1visa.state.gov/

STEP 3 Make an appointment at a U.S. Consulate or Embassy.	To apply for an J-1 Student entry visa, you will need the DS-2019 form SCANEX Rotary Youth Exchange at the time of your appointment. For more information on visa appointments, check these websites: For information about current waiting times for the appointment and for visa issuance: http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/wait_4638.html NOTE that the processing wait times do not include extra time that may be required for security clearances. To locate the nearest U.S. Consulate and its instructions for applying for a visa (including links to required forms): http://usembassy.gov/ Make a list of documentation required for the interview. Note procedures for paying the visa application fee and any visa issuance fees, if applicable.	
STEP 4 Make sure your passport is valid.	IMPORTANT: When you apply for a visa or enter the U.S., your passport must be valid for at least six (6) months past your return date (for example, your passport must be valid until at least January 2027 if you have a planned July 2026 return date).	
STEP 5	With your DS-2019 in front of you, go to the web site http://www.fmjfee.com and follow the instructions.	

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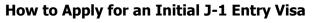
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Pay the SEVIS fee and print the receipt.	 Students are required to pay a I-901 SEVIS fee (around \$350 USD), prior to completing the DS-160 visa application. Print copies of the receipt: You will need a receipt with you for the visa interview and you should keep one for your own records. You can only access the receipt at the time of payment so be sure your printer is working before paying the fee. 	
STEP 6	DS-160 : Everyone applying for a J-1 visa must complete this form.	
Complete the required Department	Complete this electronic form and take a printed copy with you to the interview.	
of State application	https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/	
DS-160	DS-160 fee is around \$185 USD.	
	Print copies of the receipt : You will need a receipt with you for the visa interview and you should keep one for your own records.	
	To fill out the DS-160, you will need the following information from the DS-2019:	
	 Program number (YELLOW BOX on Sample DS-2019 above) SEVIS number (RED BOX on Sample DS-2019) Responsible Officer information (GREEN BOX on Sample-DS-2019) 	

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STEP 7 Pay Fees	Follow instructions for paying any visa fees required in advance of your appointment. Procedures may vary from country to country, and even post to post within the same country. <i>Note that application and issuance fees are based on reciprocity and generally reflect your country's policies in granting visa privileges to visiting U.S. students.</i>	
STEP 8 Bring two passport photos less than six months old.	Make sure your passport photos are compliant . Check "Photograph Requirements": https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/how-apply/photos.html	
STEP 9 Prepare for your interview appointment.	You will be applying for a J-1 student visa , a non-immigrant classification. According to U.S. immigration law, "Every alien shall be presumed to be an <i>immigrant</i> until he establishes to the satisfaction of the consular officer, at the time of application for admission, that he is entitled to a non-immigrant status." This means you need to establish that you have no intention of staying in the U.S. permanently , but are coming here for a temporary purpose, i.e. to pursue your educational objective. Consular officers are aware that it may be difficult for students to demonstrate strong professional and economic ties to their home countries, but you should still think about how to show those home country ties. The home-country physical-presence requirement. (also known as 2-year residency requirement - INA Section 212(e)) Some, but not all, Exchange Visitors are subject to this requirement. Its purpose is to have the home country benefit from the Exchange Visitor's experience in the United States. Exchange visitors come to this country for a specific objective such as a program	

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	of study or a research project. The requirement is intended to prevent a participant from staying longer than necessary for the objective, and to ensure that he or she will spend at least two years in the home country before coming back to the United States for a long-term stay. For the terms of the requirement please see page (2) of the enclosed Form DS - 2019. If you have questions about the requirement, including whether or not you will be subject to it, please raise them with the Consular Officer when you apply for your visa. In advance of your interview, please read the following article published by NAFSA, an Association of International Educators, in consultation with the U.S. State Department.: <i>Ten Points to Remember When Applying for a Nonimmigrant Visa</i> https://www.nafsa.org/professional-resources/browse-by-interest/10-points-remember-when-ap plying-student-visa	
STEP 10 Interview Checklist	Make sure you have the following hard copies with you for your interview: A passport valid until at least six (6) months past your intended return date	
	Form DS-2019	
	Rotary Youth Exchange Letter of Invitation	
	A completed visa application (DS-160) <i>Remember to take a printed copy with you.</i>	
	Photographs in the correct format	

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	A receipt for the visa application fee	
	A receipt for the SEVIS fee	
	Financial evidence that shows you have sufficient funds to cover your living expenses during the period you intend to study or otherwise participate in your program.	
	Any information that demonstrates your intention to return to your home country after finishing your studies in the U.S. This may include proof of property, family, or other ties to your community.	
STEP 11	After the visa is processed and before you leave the appointment, make sure you got what you asked for!	
Make sure you get what you requested!	Check your passport to be sure you obtained a J-1 visa allowing for multiple entry .	
	Be certain that the DS-2019 is returned to you, as you must have the original with you when you arrive in the United States.	
	Sometimes, the document is returned to you in a sealed envelope, which must be presented to the immigration inspector when you arrive.	

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