

UFIC Notice to Department Administrators of J-1 Program (Exchange, Visitor, Scholars): March 05, 2020)

Dear Departmental Administrators,

Exchange Visitors Services, along with the UF International Center and UF Administration, are closely monitoring COVID-19 developments. Please note that based on guidance from State of Florida government officials, all UF students and employees returning from China, Iran, Italy, Japan, and South Korea need to self-quarantine for 14 days before they return to campus.

We have not received formal guidance from the U.S. Department of State regarding COVID-19 effects on J program administration, nor have we received formal guidance from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security regarding any changes to entry requirements for prospective exchange visitors.

Going forward, we would like to offer answers to some of the questions you might have concerning our current J program processes:

I have a post-doc from an affected country scheduled to arrive on April 1st. Do you anticipate any impact on their ability to participate in the program?

As of this writing, no. We are allowing all programs to continue normally. If a visitor is able to enter the U.S., they will be able to participate in their J-1 program.

Can we defer a visitor's start date?

Yes. EVS can amend programs as far into the future as is necessary, provided the visitor and faculty member have agreed on the new start date. Department administrators must [submit an amendment request](#) through our website to defer a program start date.

Can we amend a program more than once?

Yes. EVS can amend a program as many times as necessary to adapt to the situation.

Can we cancel a program?

Yes. EVS can cancel a program if the visitor and faculty sponsor have agreed on cancellation. We need written proof of this agreement (email, letter, etc.) to complete the process.

What happens to the EVS processing fee if a program is canceled because of COVID-19?

If a J-1 program is canceled because of COVID-19, the visitor's EVS processing fee can be deferred or refunded.

- **If a visitor intends to still participate in the program in the future**, a deferred fee can be used for the future submission instead. The fee may be deferred whether or not a DS-2019 has been processed.
- **If a visitor does not intend to participate in the program in the future**, they may request a refund **if and only if** EVS has not yet processed the DS-2019. We are unable to issue a refund after the DS-2019 has been processed.

EVS is **not** encouraging visitors or faculty sponsors to cancel their programs at this time. Please continue to follow normal visa processing procedures, but expect and prepare for possible delays or unforeseen obstacles.

We will continue to notify you of developments and how they affect our visitors. Thank you all for your patience, and for all you do to support our visitors and international community.

Sincerely,

The EVS Team