Exchange Visitor Services
• UF International Center is the official program sponsor designated by the Department of State to run the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program at UF.

• EVS interprets and implements federal regulations that govern the Exchange Visitor Program.

• We administer the program in a manner that fulfills UF’s objectives of learning, discovery, and engagement.

Introduction to EVS

J-1 Research Scholar Yaqin Li, China
School of Human Development and Organizational Studies in Education
J-1 Visitors

- J-1 Exchange Visitors come to UF for a variety of reasons including giving one-time lectures, conducting research, teaching courses, or completing internships.

- J-1 Visitors share their knowledge and culture with the UF community while also gaining an understanding of American culture. Our visitors benefit from UF’s academic resources and form relationships with UF faculty, staff, and students.
What EVS Does

- Serves as link between the exchange visitor, the sponsoring UF academic unit, the federal government, and state and local agencies.

- Issues original DS2019 documents, and amends DS2019 forms as required.

- Provides immigration advice and employment authorizations, connects visitors to existing resources at UF and in Gainesville, hosts cultural events each semester for J-1 Exchange Visitors.
J-1 Responsibilities

- Maintaining continuous insurance coverage for exchange visitor (J-1) and any dependents (J-2’s.)
- Updating EVS with current address and e-mail information.
- Maintaining original program objectives.

Ulisses Rocha
J-1 Research Scholar
A well-known musician from Brazil, Ulisses teaches guitar at the School of Music, and has performed on campus and at the Hippodrome.
When to contact your J-1 Advisor

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Lyn Straka
EVS Director

Michael Smith
Surnames A-J

Adam Greenfield
Surnames K-Q

Scott Davis
Surnames R-Z

Michal Katz
Front Desk

• If you have questions or concerns about your J-1 visa or your immigration status, including 212 e.

• Before traveling outside of the U.S.

• Before starting any work of any kind (paid or unpaid) in addition to the program activity listed on your DS2019 form.

• Before any changes to your program (time-frame, department, funding, supervisor, adding/deleting dependent, transferring to a different institution, performing outside activities away from your primary work site, etc., ).
Questions?

Visit us at:
www.ufic.ufl.edu/EVS/
Immigration Options for Post-Docs, Researchers & Professors
ICS Policy

- All requests for sponsorship of H1B, TN, O1 and E3 work authorization must be initiated by the hiring department. ICS works directly with the hiring department’s request to sponsor employment. Fragomen should never be contacted, unless directly requested to do so.
Employment Authorization Card (EAD)

1. Alien Number
2. Document Number
3. Expiration Date
DS-2019 (J)
I-797 Approval Notice & I-94 Card
H-1B

• “Specialty Occupation” -- Entry level requirement = minimum Bachelor Degree or equivalent

• Six-year maximum stay (can extend under certain circumstances - AC-21); 3 year increments

• Cap Subject vs. Cap Exempt
  – UF is not subject to a CAP
INA 212(e): 2 Year Home Residence Requirement

• If you are subject, you are not eligible for:
  – An immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to LPR
  – An H or L visa
  – Changing nonimmigrant status within the US from J to any other category (except A/G)
What Can You Do If You are Subject to 212(e)?

- O-1 (extraordinary ability) visa; Note: 212(e) still applies—difficult to qualify for. 212(e) does not go away.
- Serve the 2 years
  - In country of nationality or last legal permanent residence for an aggregate of 2 years
- Apply for a waiver
  - Get an Advisory Opinion first!
H-1B (continued)

- H-1B tied to employer
- H-1B can be part-time or full-time
- Government fees? ($325, and $500); Attorney fees
- No grace period; once you stop working must leave
- Spouse and children (H-4) not eligible to work
- The H1B process is lengthy. A normal time frame is a request by the sponsoring department, at least, 9 months prior to the requested start date, otherwise, extensive rush fees will apply.
- All OPT, to include STEM extension, must be utilized. (exception only if offered a tenure accruing position at UF)
Employment-Based Visas

TN Status

- Canadians citizens are exempt from visa requirement; Mexican citizens must obtain visa stamp
- Permitted to enter the U.S. after presenting a valid passport, an offer of employment letter for a specialty occupation and submitting a $50.00 processing fee to U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP)
- Dependents enter the U.S. as TD visa holders and may not obtain employment, but may engage in full or part-time study
Employment-Based Visas

E-3 Status

• Limited to Australian citizens
• Offer of employment in specialty occupation
• Maximum period of stay is two-year period, but renewable annually for an indefinite period of time, for one-year spans
• Unlimited income from university, exclusively. Income from other sources cannot be earned without approval from USCIS
E-3 Status

• Dependents also enter the U.S. as E-3 visa holders who may obtain employment with authorization from USICS and may engage in full or part-time study

• Not eligible for tenure earning positions at the university
Employment-Based Visas

O-1 Status

• Offer of employment for position that requires the incumbent to teach, lecture, conduct research or perform professional duties, but indication that position is temporary in nature is required

• Unlimited income from university, but permission from USCIS to earn income from another source is required
O-1 Status

• Numerous documents are required to provide evidence that the beneficiary is Outstanding.

• Initial sponsorship period may span a two-year period; however, extensions may be requested for a one-year period and no maximum period of stay has been established.

• Dependents arrive to the U.S. as O-3 visa holders who may engage in full or part-time study, but may not obtain employment.
How to Get a Green Card

- Family
- Work
- Diversity Lottery
- Asylum
- Special Legislation
Permanent Residency (UF Sponsorship)

• Permanent Residency is the right to live and work in the United States indefinitely

• Employment-based immigration is limited by Section 201 of the Immigration and Naturalization Act (INA) to about 140,000 visas per year. The 140,000 visas are allocated among countries of origin

• To qualify for lawful permanent residence, a person generally must have permanent labor certification and an offer of permanent, full-time employment from a U.S. employer
Permanent Residency (UF Sponsorship)

- University Eligibility Requirements
  - The position offered is permanent
  - The position is full-time
  - The faculty member intends to remain in the position indefinitely and meets the criteria established by the USCIS laws
Permanent Residency (UF Sponsorship)

• Guidance on Determining Position Eligibility
  – Tenure and non-tenured faculty lines
  – Generally, TEAMS positions will not qualify for sponsorship
  – Postdoctoral and medical resident/fellow positions do not qualify for sponsorship
Diversity Lottery

• 50,000 green cards given out each year (about 14 million applicants); usually apply sometime in October of each year

• Odds of winning the powerball jackpot?? 1 in 195,249,054

• Who is NOT eligible? Persons BORN in: Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China (mainland born), Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, South Korea, United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland) and its dependent territories, and Vietnam.

• Persons born in Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR, and Taiwan are eligible.
ICS Contact

• Susie Studstill, ICS Manager
  studstil@ufl.edu
• Haley Tsai, ICS Coordinator
  haley.tsai@ufl.edu
• Gayoung Kim, ICS HR Rep
  gayoungkim@ufl.edu