



EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM
(J Visa)
GUIDANCE RELATIVE TO THE TEACHER CATEGORY

Teacher Compensation

Sponsors are reminded that Exchange Visitor Program teachers are expected to teach full-time at a primary or secondary accredited educational institution in the United States and are expected to receive payment commensurate to a U.S. teacher with similar responsibilities and similar education.

Duration of Program Participation

It is not the policy of the Department to extend the exchange program of participants in the teacher category beyond the maximum duration of three years set forth in the regulations. The objective of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act is that exchange visitors come to the United States for a specific program objective and upon completion of that objective return to their home country to use their newly acquired or enhanced skills to benefit their home country. Sponsors are therefore expected to develop a program that can be completed within a three-year period. It is the responsibility of the sponsor to ensure that the appropriate individual at the accredited institution where the teacher is placed understands this regulatory requirement.

Transfers

Due to the contractual relationships in the administration of the teacher category (exchange visitor teacher and the sponsor; the exchange visitor teacher and the school, and the sponsor and the school) the Department does not contemplate the transfer of teachers among designated sponsors.

If a Form DS-2019 was issued by a sponsor to a teacher, that teacher can teach in a US school under that sponsor for a period of time up to three years with the authorization of that sponsor. The sponsor could place the teacher in a different school each year but when the maximum duration of three years has been reached, the exchange visitor program for that individual is completed. A teacher remains on the same SEVIS ID throughout the three- year period. It is not appropriate for a sponsor to issue a new Form DS-2019 to an individual to begin a new exchange program for a teacher currently in the United States. In addition, if a sponsor is designated by the Department to conduct a two-year teacher program and a participant enters the U.S. under that sponsor's program; their exchange visitor program is considered complete at the end of that two-year period.

Stanley S. Colvin
Director, Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation

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