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## Division of International Services



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### NIHisbNews Alert for July 7, 2005

#### New J-1 Five-Year Rule

On May 19, the U.S. Department of State (DOS) published a new rule extending the duration of J-1 Research Scholars to 5 years. This rule will benefit NIH by allowing our J-1 Research Scholars to stay in the same activity for up to 5 years. This rule will go into effect the later of June 20, 2005 OR the date the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) can reprogram SEVIS to allow for extensions up to 5 years. HOWEVER, it is anticipated that SEVIS will not be ready until next year (January or February 2006). DHS will publish a notice prior to implementation of the rule. Until then, we must continue the usual procedures to seek J-1 extensions beyond 3 years. These procedures can be found [here](#).

Many of you may have heard about a part of the rule that prohibited F-1 students from being eligible for a J-1. We are happy to report that DOS issued a correction on June 23 that removes this prohibition. F-1 students will continue to be eligible to apply for a change to J-1.

#### Visas for citizens of China

Effective June 20, 2005, Chinese applicants for student and scholar visas will be eligible to receive a one-year, multiple-entry visa. A visa is an entry permit stamped in an individual's passport that allows that individual to apply for admission to enter the U.S. Currently, Chinese applicants are only eligible to receive a six-month visa, valid for only 2 entries to the U.S. This change will allow more flexibility for Chinese researchers sponsored on a J-1 to travel outside the U.S. to attend international conferences and/or for personal reasons. However, the granting of the one-year visa is at the sole discretion of the U.S. consulate. The consulate reserves the right to determine the terms of the visa, particularly if that individual is subject to a security check. It is not clear whether or not this benefit will extend to employment-based visas, such as H-1 or O-1. We will update you when more details are learned.

#### Summer Travel

The summer travel season is upon us. In addition to your swimsuit and sunscreen, don't forget to carry your immigration documents! Be sure to check in with DIS and review our travel advisories before departing the U.S. Information on our travel advisories can be found [here](#).

In addition, NIH-sponsored J-1 researchers will need a travel signature from DIS before leaving the U.S. An appointment is not necessary to obtain the signature.

Information about our walk-in hours can be found [here](#).

## Orientations

This is reminder that if you have not yet attended your scheduled orientation or tax seminar, it is to your advantage to do so! These orientations and seminars are designed to acquaint you with your responsibilities as a non-immigrant at NIH. We strongly encourage you to attend these sessions!

For information on our orientations and tax assistance, including the schedule and registration information, click [here](#).

## Imposter web sites and other scams

DIS wants to remind our scientists to be wary of imposter USCIS and DOS web sites, emails, and other scams. Only web sites and emails ending with ".gov" are official U.S. government agencies. The most common scam is an email notifying individuals that they have won the Diversity Visa (DV) Lottery and requests payment for processing of their DV lottery application.

Scientists should be wary of providing personal information and payment to such questionable web sites or emails. The full warning of imposter sites is located [here](#).

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