



Guidelines for Administration of the Intern Work and Travel Pilot Program with Ireland

The Department is pleased to announce that on September 22, 2008 the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United States signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing the Intern Work and Travel (IWT) Pilot Program. This innovative reciprocal exchange program will be conducted as a five year pilot program under which qualifying post-secondary college/university students and recent graduates from Ireland will enter the United States to participate in internships and travel independently. The Government of Ireland will provide reciprocal opportunities for U.S. participants. The IWT Program becomes effective on October 31, 2008.

The IWT program will be conducted under the existing Intern category of the Exchange Visitor Program, unless otherwise noted below.

Program Administration

Citizens of Ireland traveling to the United States to participate in the IWT Pilot program will do so under the Department's existing Intern category regulations, and applicable sponsor program rules, with the exception of participant placement. IWT participants should be notated as such in the Subject/Field Code Remarks Box of Form DS-2019. No extension of program beyond the 12-month program duration will be permitted.

Participant Placement

Form DS-7002, Training/Internship Placement Plan, is not required for the purpose of the visa application as participants may enter the United States without regard to preplacement. Sponsors will be responsible for completing this Form when participants advise them of their employment arrangement.

Screening and Selection of Participants

Screening and selection of participants is the responsibility of designated sponsors and may be conducted by the sponsor or in cooperation with the sponsor's overseas partners/agents. All participants must be interviewed in-person and must meet the following program eligibility requirements:

- Be a citizen of Ireland.
- Be a bona fide post-secondary college/university student or recent graduate. A recent graduate is defined as an Irish citizen who has graduated from a post-secondary college/university in their home country no more than 12 months beyond graduation. The applicant must provide evidence from his/her post-secondary institution of student status or graduation.
- Vocational students pursuing studies at a tertiary level accredited academic institution are not eligible for participation unless such vocational study is part of a structured

program leading to a degree or other credential recognized as equivalent to Level VI of the Irish Higher Education System.

- Provide proof of sufficient financial resources, prior to the issuance of a Form DS-2019 coming to the United States, to support themselves throughout their program and for their return home.
- Not be accompanied by spouse or dependents.

Monitoring of Participants and Participant Support

Within 10 days of arrival in the United States, interns are required to notify the sponsor of their arrival, their U.S. residential address, and confirm the commencement of their program or job search. After receiving the participants' information, the sponsor must validate the participant's SEVIS record and reflect the current U.S. address and primary site of activity.

Sponsors shall continue to contact participants and host organizations every 30 days thereafter throughout the duration of their participation in the sponsor's program.

Sponsors shall promptly update SEVIS with any changes of U.S. address or approved changes of site of activity. Sponsors are reminded to identify the "primary" site of activity in the event the participant has multiple sites.