International Summer Institute Participant FAQs

1. **What is the appropriate visa status for a Summer Institute Participant?**
   The Office of International Services (OIS) at JHMI determines the appropriate visa status for each Summer Institute Participant based on the Participant’s individual situation. Each participant should complete the Institute Applicant form and submit it to the OIS so that the OIS may advise regarding the appropriate visa status. If the OIS determines J-1 visa sponsorship to be appropriate, we will provide a DS-2019 document that will be used to apply for a J-1 visa. All Summer Institute Participants are expected to adhere to the recommendation of the OIS regarding the appropriate visa status.

2. **Can I attend the Summer Institutes on a B1/B2 visitor’s visa?**
   The OIS recommends J-1 visa status for institute participants. If you choose to attend an institute in B1/B2 status, please know that the following risks may occur:
   - The U.S. Embassy may deny issuance of the visa based upon the criteria presented to them.
   - The officer at the port of entry into the U.S. may refuse entry based on the visa type and what you are here to do. At this point you could be asked to return to your home country and secure a more appropriate visa.
   - Application of future visas could be impacted.

3. **I’ve already completed the J-1 Applicant portion of the E-Forms. How long will it take the OIS to issue my Ds-2019?**
   The OIS will generate your new DS-2019 within 10 business days from when your completed application is received. After the OIS issues your DS-2019 we will ship the document using the mailing label you created in eShipGlobal.

4. **How soon after I complete the Institute do I need to depart the U.S.?**
   Individuals in J-1 status have a 30 day grace period after the end date on their DS-2019. During this time, you can remain in the U.S. but it is not permissible to study or work. You must depart the U.S. by the end of the grace period.

5. **What do I need to do if I plan to travel internationally during the Institute?**
   If you will be attending the Institute in J-1 status and plan to travel abroad and re-enter the U.S. during the Institutes, please visit the OIS prior to your departure to obtain a travel signature on your DS-2019. If you will not depart the U.S. until the end date on your DS-2019 or during your grace period, you will not need a travel signature. Note: International travel [with plans to return to the U.S. in J-1 status] is not permitted during the grace period.

   Participants in B1/B2 status do not need to visit the OIS prior to travelling internationally.

6. **What are the estimated living expenses for attending a BSPH Summer Institute?**
   Estimated expenses are $2000 per week including tuition, living expenses and health insurance. Expenses can vary widely depending on the number of courses taken and your choice of housing...
accommodations. You must provide evidence of funding that meets the estimated amount before we can issue the visa document for your visit.

7. **What should I do if I will not be able to begin the Institute on time?**
   Contact the Office of International Services at J1-Scholars@jhmi.edu and your Institute Coordinator to confirm that it is acceptable to arrive late.

8. **When should I make my visa interview appointment?**
   You should wait until you have your DS-2019 before making your visa interview appointment. Priority appointments at the U.S. Consulate are typically given to J1 visa applicants.

9. **If I have additional questions regarding my visa status, who should I contact?**
   Please contact the Office of International Services via email at J1-Scholars@jhmi.edu.

10. **My visa stamp says I am subject to 212(e), what does this mean?**
    There are three reasons a J1 Scholar can be subject to 212(e). The J1 is engaging in clinical activities, is receiving governmental financing, or the J1’s country of residence is on the Exchange Visitor Skills List issued by the US Department of State. If you happen to be marked subject to 212(e) it is most likely because your country of residence is on the Skills List. If you are marked subject to 212(e) you will have to reside in your home country for a total of two years before being eligible for immigrant status or H1B status. Being subject to 212(e) will not prevent you from returning to the US and you will still be able to enter the US in a number of different visa categories. If you plan to return to the US in less than two years after participating in a Summer Institute with the Bloomberg School of Public Health our office will be happy to assist you with any questions. For additional 212(e) information please visit the US Department of State website: http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1267.html

11. **Can I arrive in the U.S. prior to the start date on my DS-2019?**
    Yes, technically you may arrive up to 30 days prior to the start date on your DS-2019. If you plan to arrive early please inform your Summer Institute Program Coordinator and ensure that this is acceptable.

12. **What documentation do I need to carry with me on the plane for my arrival to the U.S.?**
    You should make sure to have your valid passport, your original DS-2019 document, the documentation of your funding and contact information for someone at Johns Hopkins.

13. **What do I need to bring when I check in with your Office?**
    Participants in J-1 status will need to bring their Passport, DS-2019, and check-in form (to be provided by your Institute Coordinator after arrival in the U.S.) and print out of I-94 information.

14. **Do I need to have health insurance while in J1 status?**
In order to maintain your J1 status you are required to maintain health insurance coverage at all times. If insurance is not provided for you by the University you will need to secure your own insurance through another source.

If JHMI is not covering your insurance you need to make sure the insurance you have meets the minimum requirements listed below:

- Medical benefits of at least $100,000 per person per accident or illness
- Deductible of no more than $500 per accident or illness
- Medical Evacuation up to $50,000
- Repatriation of remains up to $25,000
- Covers pre-existing conditions after a reasonable waiting period
- Includes provision for co-payment that does not exceed 25% co-pay by the Exchange Visitor
- Does not exclude benefits for perils inherent to the activities of the Exchange Visitor’s program
- Must be underwritten by an insurance company that meets the rating requirements of the Department of State or is backed by the full faith and credit of the Exchange Visitor’s government.