

International Summer Institute Participant FAQs

What is the appropriate visa status for a Summer Institute Participant?

The Office of International Services (OIS) provides J-1 visa sponsorship to institute participants who enroll in the full-time equivalent of 2 credits per week. Participants who are attending the institutes to earn credit towards a degree program in the Bloomberg School of Public Health are sponsored for F-1 visas.

Can I attend the Summer Institutes on a B1/B2 visitor's visa?

The OIS does not recommend use of the B1/B2 visitor visa for institute participants. [B1/B2 visa regulations](#) prohibit study and participants choosing to enter the U.S. Participants choosing to enter the U.S. in visitor status do so at their own risk.

How soon after I complete the Institute do I need to depart the U.S.?

Participants 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.

How do I check in with the Office of International Services?

The check-in process is completed online and is mandatory for participants in J-1 status. Participants must complete the check-in process within 24 hours of the start of their institute. Failure to complete the check-in process will result in the cancellation of your J-1 record. Participants in J-1 status will be sent check-in instructions by email starting 30 days prior to their institute start date and continuing weekly thereafter until they have completed the check-in process. Check-in can be completed using any device that has an internet connection. Participants will be required to upload photos of their J-1 visa stamp, DS-2019, form I-94 and port of entry stamp.

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.

What are the estimated living expenses for attending a BSPH Summer Institute?

Living expenses are estimated at a minimum of \$2000 per week. Participants being sponsored for J-1 status must provide documentation confirming that they can cover this amount before we can issue the visa document (DS-2019) for your visit. This does not include the cost of courses.

I've already completed all of my eForms. 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.

What should I do if I will not be able to begin the Institute on time?

Contact the OIS at J1-Scholars@jhmi.edu and your Institute Coordinator to confirm that it is acceptable to arrive late.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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. Your health insurance plan must meet the minimum requirements for J-1 status. If insurance is not provided for you by the University you will need to secure your own insurance through another source.