

Comparing the F and J Student Visa Categories

Newly admitted international students to a full-time degree program have the option to consider either the F-1 student or J-1 student visa. Below you will find a chart outlining the basic eligibility requirements as well as their advantages and disadvantages. Most international students at Johns Hopkins will be eligible for the F-1 student visa only, the primary determination being their source of funding. Ultimately, the immigration document provided to the student will be determined in collaboration with an OIS advisor. After reviewing this chart and the links within please email an advisor for additional clarification ois@jhu.edu.

F-1 Student	Both must enroll full time.	J-1 Student
Any source of funding is acceptable. Must show funding for one academic year.	Funding	Must have substantial funding other than personal. Must show funding for entire duration of degree program.
May work up to 20 hours on campus without prior approval.	On-campus Employment	May work on campus with prior OIS approval .
CPT and pre-completion OPT authorization available for off campus employment. OPT for up to 12 months. 24 months STEM extension available to some students.	Off-campus & Post Degree Employment	Academic Training is available during or after degree completion for up to 18 months or the length of the degree program, if shorter.
Spouse cannot not work. Dependents may study less than full-time or in a vocational or recreational capacity.	Dependent Benefits	Spouse may work (USCIS authorization required.) Dependents may study full-time or part-time.
Must enroll in JHU health insurance.	Health Insurance	Must enroll in JHU health insurance. Dependents must meet minimum J-1 insurance requirements .
May arrive up to 30 days before program start date. 60 days grace period following degree completion	Early Arrival & Grace Period	May arrive up to 30 days before program start date. 30 days grace period following degree completion
May update or add additional major field of study.	Field of Study	Generally not eligible to change major while within the US.
There is no 2 year home residency requirement or 12-month bar.	Other Restrictions	May be subject to 2 year home residency requirement or 12 month bar .