



Elimination of Duration of Status (D/S) Updates Webinar

for J-1 Status Holders

**Presented By: UCLA Dashew Center for International Students
& Scholars & UCLA DGSOM Visa & Licensing Office**

Agenda

1

Review of Immigration Concepts and Documents

Core overview of Nonimmigrant status, Form DS-2019, J-1 Visa, and Form I-94 record.

2

Regulatory Updates

Key provisions of the DHS Final Rule establishing fixed Admit Until Dates (AUD).

3

Process Updates & Extensions

USCIS Form I-539 filings, travel re-entry rules, transition provisions, and work authorization.

4

Resources & Next Steps

Support portals, guides, and compliance tools.

5

Q&A Session

Addressing participant questions regarding the D/S policy transition.

Zoom Norms & Q&A Format



Pre-Submitted Questions

We will address pre-submitted questions at the end of this presentation.



Use Q&A Box

During the dedicated Q&A Period, please type your specific questions directly into the Zoom Q&A box. Indicate J-1 category and affiliated visa office with your question.



Stay Topic Focused

Keep all questions limited to the topic of the Duration of Status (D/S) rule policy transition. Many common topics will be addressed in upcoming slides and during pre-submitted questions.

Slide Deck Availability

This presentation deck will be available on the UCLA Dashew Center website following the webinar.

Introducing the UCLA Dashew Center J-1 Team

J-1 Student & Scholar Unit Services

The Dashew Center J-1 Exchange Visitor Team provides immigration advising, DS-2019 issuance, compliance monitoring, and support services for international students, scholars, professors, and researchers at **UCLA Main Campus**.

Email: dcissj1unit@saonet.ucla.edu

In-Person/Zoom Drop-In Hours: M-F 10am - 12pm; 2pm-4pm

Advising Appointments: Virtual appointments scheduled online

Location: 106 Bradley Hall



Introducing the UCLA DGSOM Visa & Licensing Office

J-1 Scholar Unit Services

The DGSOM Visa & Licensing office J-1 Scholar Team provides immigration advising, DS-2019 issuance, compliance monitoring, and support services for international scholars, professors, and researchers at **UCLA School of Medicine**.

- Email: VisaAndLicensing@mednet.ucla.edu
- **Advising Appointments:** Virtual appointments requested by email



Immigration Concepts & Key Documents

Foundational principles of J-1 Nonimmigrant Status

Defining Nonimmigrants



Nonimmigrant Status

Granted to individuals who are not U.S. citizens or U.S. Permanent Residents, admitted on a temporary basis for a specific purpose.



J-1 Exchange Visitor

Designed to foster educational and cultural exchange. Classification (J-1) equals the authorized purpose of your visit to UCLA.



Category Regulations

Different rules apply to different visa categories. The new policy has similarities and key differences between F students and J exchange visitors..

Form DS-2019 (Certificate of Eligibility)

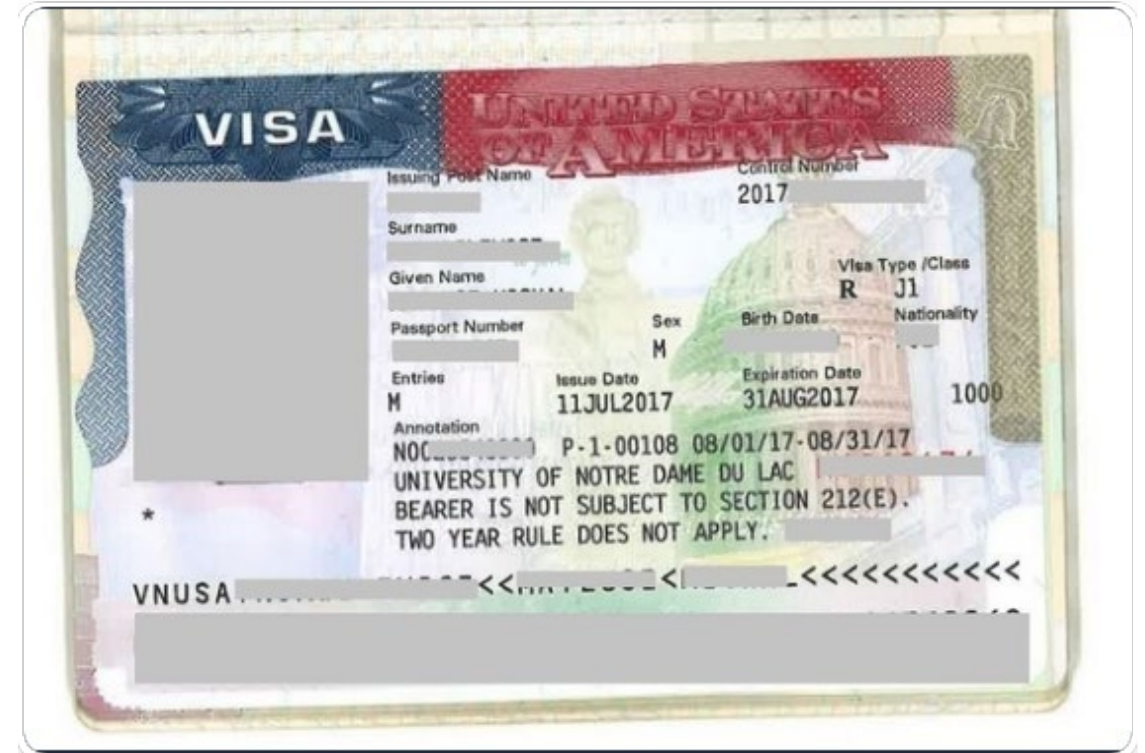
- Issued by a U.S. government-approved sponsor institution, such as the **University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)**.
- Contains details on program category, program activity, start/end dates, and authorized funding sources.
- **SEVIS System:** U.S. government database that keeps track of exchange visitor records.
- Managed by Responsible Officers (RO) and Alternate Responsible Officers (ARO) at the UCLA Dashew Center & DGSOM Visa & Licensing Office.

Essential Document Check

Always keep all historical original DS-2019 forms issued during your J-1 program for lifetime immigration records.

J-1 Visa Stamp

- Entry document issued by the U.S. Department of State embassy or consulate abroad.
- **Purpose:** Requests permission to apply for entry to the U.S. at a port of entry (Canadian citizens exempt).
- Does **NOT** determine your permitted length of stay or legal immigration status inside the U.S.
- Legal status duration is determined by Customs & Border Protection (CBP) at port of entry.



I-94 Arrival/Departure Record

- Issued electronically by U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) upon entry to the U.S.
- Official record indicating **Class of Admission** (e.g., J-1 or J-2) and **Admit Until Date (AUD)**.
- Historically noted as **Duration of Status ("D/S")** for J exchange visitors.
- **Action Required:** Download, review, and save your official I-94 after every entry into the U.S.

Most Recent I-94

Admission (I-94) Record Number :

Most Recent Date of Entry: 2018 July 10

Class of Admission : J1

Admit Until Date : D/S

Details provided on the I-94 Information form:

Last/Surname :

First (Given) Name :

Birth Date :

Summary: Three Key Documents



1. Form DS-2019

Establishes program eligibility, UCLA host academic department, approved funding, and official SEVIS category details.



2. J-1 Visa Stamp

Travel ticket used strictly to request U.S. entry at border crossings or airports. May expire while staying legally in U.S.



3. I-94 Record

Governing legal proof of entry and authorized length of stay ("Admit Until Date") inside the United States.

What is Duration of Status (D/S)?

Historic D/S Practice

Under historic regulations, J-1 exchange visitors were admitted for "**D/S**" (**Duration of Status**) recorded on Form I-94. Exchange visitors maintained legal status as long as they complied with program requirements and their DS-2019 was valid.

- Program extensions were completed internally via SEVIS and corresponding visa office issuing an extended DS-2019.
- No requirement to file a formal extension application with USCIS or leave the U.S. solely to extend status.
- **Major Change:** This long-standing D/S practice ends on **September 15, 2026**.

Regulatory Updates

Elimination of Duration of Status (D/S) Final Rule

DHS Final Rule Overview

"Establishing a Fixed Time Period of Admission and an Extension of Stay Procedure for Nonimmigrant Academic Students, Exchange Visitors, and Media Representatives"

Published by DHS on **July 17, 2026** | Scheduled Implementation: **September 15, 2026**

Replaces flexible Duration of Status (D/S) with a date-certain **Admit Until Date (AUD)** capped at a maximum of 4 years per admission.

Key Provisions of the Final Rule

Fixed AUD on I-94: Specific expiration date assigned for nonimmigrants entering on or after 09/15/2026.

Transition Period: Guidance for J nonimmigrants already in the U.S. on 09/15/2026 with D/S I-94 records.

Maximum Admission Limit: Capped at DS-2019 end date (+ 30-day grace period), not to exceed 4 years (+ 30-day grace period).

Extension of Stay (EOS): Formal USCIS Form I-539 filing required for extensions beyond fixed AUD.

Pending EOS Rules: Terms governing work authorization and academic activities during USCIS processing.

International Travel Option: Option to exit U.S., obtain updated visa (if needed), and re-enter to reset AUD.

Provision 1: Fixed Admit Until Date (AUD)

- Individuals entering or changing status to J on or after **September 15, 2026** will receive a fixed date on their Form I-94 Arrival Record.
- AUD typically matches the DS-2019 program end date, plus a **30-day grace period** (up to max 4 years, plus a **30-day grace period**)
 - Can be shorter, under discretion of CBP Officer
- Remaining in the U.S. beyond your fixed AUD without a pending/approved extension accrues **unlawful presence**.

⚠ **Mandatory Responsibility**

Always inspect your I-94 after every U.S. entry. Report any date discrepancy immediately to your corresponding visa office.

Provision 2: J-1 EVs in the U.S. on Sept 15, 2026

Transition Group Rules

J-1 exchange visitors present in the U.S. on September 15, 2026 with a D/S I-94 do **not** need to apply immediately for a fixed AUD.

- You may remain in J-1 visa status until your current DS-2019 end date (up to maximum transition cap).
- To remain past your current DS-2019 end date, you must first extend your DS-2019, then either file Form I-539 Extension of Stay with USCIS, or travel internationally and re-enter the U.S.
- Any travel and re-entry on/after 09/15/2026 replaces your D/S record with a fixed AUD I-94.

Travel & Return BEFORE Sept 15, 2026



Standard D/S Entry

Re-entry prior to 09/15/2026 results in an I-94 marked with "D/S" (Duration of Status).



No Action Needed If Completing Program As Scheduled

If departing the U.S. within 30 days after DS-2019 expiration without an extension, no additional USCIS filing is required.



Verify Record

Check I-94 after re-entry. Contact corresponding visa office if errors occur.

Travel & Return ON/AFTER Sept 15, 2026



Fixed Date Assignment

Re-entering on or after 09/15/2026 grants an I-94 with a specific Admit Until Date (AUD).



AUD Limit Calculation

AUD typically matches your DS-2019 end date (max 4 years) plus 30-day grace period.



Departure Mandate

Must depart on or before AUD, unless a timely extension (Form I-539) is filed with USCIS.

Provision 3: Max Admission Period (4 Years)

- Single admission period capped at maximum **4 years + 30 days**.
- **Important:** Not a cap on overall J-1 category limits (e.g., Research Scholar max remains 5 years).
- For J-1 status holders entering with a DS-2019 program duration that exceeds 4 years, they must file Form I-539 or re-enter U.S. with DS-2019, before reaching their AUD.
- Form DS-2019 Program End Date will continue to match your approved **UCLA Program** end date.

Provision 4: Extending J Program On/After 09/15/2026

- 1 UCLA Academic Department Extension**
Department extends academic appointment and submits request to corresponding visa office via MyBruin International Portal.*
- 2 Dashew Center & DGSOM Visa & Licensing Office SEVIS Processing**
J-1 advisor issues extended Form DS-2019 updating SEVIS program dates.
- 3 Status Extension (I-539 or Travel)**
Scholar files Form I-539 with USCIS prior to AUD, **OR** travels internationally and re-enters U.S.

*Degree students and exchange students will initiate the DS-2019 extension application instead of the academic department.

Extension of Stay (EOS) & Form I-539

Option A: USCIS Form I-539 Filing*

- File Form I-539 online (\$420) or paper (\$470).
- Must be submitted to USCIS before current AUD expires.
- Includes biometrics check fee requirements if applicable.

Option B: Travel & Re-Entry

- Depart U.S. before current AUD expires.
- Renew J-1 visa stamp abroad if expired.
- Re-enter U.S. with extended DS-2019 to obtain updated AUD.

*The Dashew Center and DGSOM Visa and Licensing Office will not be able to assist with the submission of the I-539 EOS, because it is a personal application filed directly with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) by the individual, not an institutional petition. Exchange visitors may work with an outside attorney for assistance.

Transferring J-1 Program On/After 09/15/2026

- Transferring between institutions (e.g., UCLA to another U.S. university) updates SEVIS sponsor details.
- If transfer extends total stay beyond current I-94 AUD, scholar must apply for EOS with USCIS or travel.
- Timely SEVIS release and coordination between UCLA and new host institution required prior to AUD expiry.

Consequences of Late Extension Requests

⚠ Critical Risks of Untimely Filings

Failing to submit extension/transfer requests before your I-94 AUD causes loss of J-1 status, unlawful presence accrual, and termination of work authorization.

- USCIS denies late Form I-539 filings unless extraordinary circumstances out of one's control are proven.
- Automatic extension of employment authorization is void if filing occurs after AUD.

Provision 5: Working While EOS Pending

Category	Pending EOS Work Authorization Rule
J-1 Exchange Visitor	Work authorization automatically extended up to 240 days while timely filed Form I-539 is pending with USCIS.
J-2 Dependents (EAD)	No automatic extension for J-2 Employment Authorization Documents (EAD). J-2 work stops when EAD card expires.

Transition Work Provision (Through 03/18/2027)

Timely Filing Transition Protection

For exchange visitors in D/S status filing an EOS I-539 on or before **March 18, 2027**, authorization to engage in J-1 activities is extended through the requested program end date on the submitted DS-2019. (No 240-day maximum pending period)

- Protects current exchange visitors transitioning from historic D/S rules during initial implementation months.

Provision 6: International Travel Options

- Travel and re-entry serves as an alternative to filing Form I-539 with USCIS.
- Requires valid passport, valid J-1 visa stamp, extended UCLA DS-2019 with valid travel signature.
- Upon re-entering, CBP issues new I-94 with updated AUD matching extended DS-2019, plus a 30-day grace period.

Note: The I-539 Application and the Travel/Re-Entry options each have their own risks and benefits. The Exchange Visitor must determine which option makes the most sense for them.

J-2 Dependents Compliance

- J-2 dependents are never admitted longer than the principal J-1 scholar.
- J-2 status extensions can be filed concurrently on Form I-539 alongside J-1 principal.
- **EAD Work Auth Warning:** J-2 employment authorization ends strictly on EAD card expiration date.
Plan EAD renewals early!

J-1 Student Post-Completion Academic Training

- J-1 Degree Students and Exchange Students are still eligible for Post-Completion Academic Training.
- Extension of Stay (I-539) or international travel will be required if training takes place after Admit Until Date (AUD).

Resources & Support Services



Dashew Center Immigration Update Page

Visit internationalcenter.ucla.edu for compliance updates and FAQ guides.



Visa & Legal Resources Page

Visit

<https://internationalcenter.ucla.edu/resources/resource-guide/visa-and-legal-services>



LA Area Attorney List

Visit

<https://internationalcenter.ucla.edu/resources/attorney-list>



MyBruin International Portal

Submit DS-2019 extensions and travel signature requests online.



Direct Advising

Email your corresponding visa office (Dashew Center or DGSOM Visa & Licensing) for specific guidance.



UCLA Student Legal Services

Visit <https://studentlegal.ucla.edu/>

Pre-Submitted Questions

1. I joined the J-1 program at UCLA on September 2023. Will this rule apply to me as well and does this mean that I can only work for 4 years until September 2027?
2. Is Post-Completion Academic Training still available for degree students and will the duration of academic training be impacted?
3. I am currently on the J-1 Research Scholar category. Does this rule apply if your DS-2019 has already been extended to the maximum time period of five years?
4. Does the new policy mean I can only stay in the U.S. for four years on J-1 status?
5. My entry visa stamp in my passport has expired, but I am maintaining my J-1 status. May I remain in the United States?
6. Can J-1 exchange visitors continue their program or employment while the I-539 Extension of Stay is pending?
7. What are the required documents when filing for I-539 Extension of Stay?
8. If my I-94 admission record has an AUD, how early can I apply for I-539 Extension of Stay to USCIS?

Questions & Answers

Thank you for attending the webinar!

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