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EMPLOYMENT FOR J-2 VISA HOLDER (QUICK GUIDE)

Eligibility:

The spouse or unmarried child (under 21 years of age) of an Exchange Visitor holding a valid J-2 visa status may work in the United States with authorization from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

To obtain employment authorization (EAD), the J-2 visa holder must state that their income will not be used to support the J-1. If permission is granted, the J-2 person may work anywhere in the U.S., for any number of hours, in any occupation, and at any wage/salary rate. Employers must deduct Social Security tax from his/her earnings.

When and where to apply:

The law specifies no other requirements other than those above. Applications must be sent to the USCIS Service Center. Please see instructions below.

NOTE: At this time we do not know how long it takes USCIS to process and approve J-2 work permit applications, we suggest that J-2 applicants apply for renewal 3 months prior to the expiration of their EAD cards.

Documents needed:

1. **Form I-765**, available at <https://www.uscis.gov/i-765> plus a check/money order for \$410 payable to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, stapled to the application.
2. Letter itemizing the family's expenses in the U.S. Please see sample on the reverse side.
3. Photocopies of the J-1 principal alien's and the J-2 dependent's DS-2019 forms as well as front and back of the I-94 form, visa stamps, and passport photo page.
4. Two passport size photos with a white background taken no earlier than 30 days before submission to USCIS (contact any photo studio familiar with passport-type photos). Write your name on the back of the photos and put them in a small envelope and staple to the application.
5. Copy of marriage certificate.
6. Copy of last EAD if the applicant has previously been issued an EAD.

Mail to:

If Using U.S. Postal Service Mail

USCIS
PO Box 21281
Phoenix, AZ 85036

If Using FedEx, UPS, or DHL

USCIS
Attn: NFB AOS
1820 E. Skyharbor, Circle S
Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85034

J-2 EMPLOYMENT SAMPLE LETTER

**January 15, 2010
Maria K. Bruin
111 Ocean Walk
Los Angeles, CA 90412**

Director
USCIS
PO Box 21281
Phoenix, AZ 85036

Dear Director:

I am a J-2 Exchange Visitor and I am filing form I-765 to request employment authorization under 8 CFR 274a.12 (c) (5). This employment authorization request is to support myself (and my children) during my (our) stay in the United States. My earnings will in no way be used to support the J-1 principal Exchange Visitor, John Arthur Bruin, who is a (Student, Visiting Scholar, Visiting Professor) at the University of California Los Angeles (pursuing a Master's/Ph.D. degree, teaching, doing research) in Futurology.

Our family's monthly expenses in the United States are as follows:

Expense	J-1 Principal	J-2(s)
Housing	-----	-----
Food (on campus & at home)	-----	-----
Clothing	-----	-----
Personal Care	-----	-----
School fees & supplies	-----	-----
Telephone (incl. long distance)	-----	-----
Electricity	-----	-----
Gas/Heating/Air conditioning	-----	-----
Recreation/Entertainment	-----	-----
Child Care	-----	-----
Auto insurance/maintenance	-----	-----
Subscriptions	-----	-----
Travel	-----	-----

Our total monthly income after taxes is \$

Photocopies of our I-94 and DS-2019 forms are attached.

Sincerely,

Maria K. Bruin