Getting Your Visa and Entering the United States

1. Pay the SEVIS Fee and book consular appointment

To pay this fee online, please visit http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901. You will need your SEVIS number, which you can find in the upper-right corner of your DS2019 Form, beginning with ‘N00’. This fee is different from the $100 EVS fee.

After you pay the SEVIS fee you must book an appointment at a U.S. Consulate in your home country by visiting https://ceac.state.gov/genniv. The Visa application fee will be an additional $160.

2. Receive J-1 Visa Stamp at consular appointment

Each specific consulate will have its own rules and required documentation, but all J-1 visitors should bring their original DS2019 Form, their UF offer letter, and any proof of funding not already indicated in the offer letter. It is a good idea to make copies of all important documentation before going to your consular appointment.

While we cannot tell you how long it will take, if your application is accepted you will receive a J-1 visa stamp in your passport. All non-Canadians must have the J-1 visa stamp in their passport to enter the United States. Your DS2019 Form is not a visa.

3. Buy health insurance and send proof to EVS

Your J-1 program may not begin until you have valid health insurance for yourself and any J-2 dependents, even J-2 dependents that are not in the country. Even if your UF offer letter indicates that you are being given UF benefits, you will still need to buy one month of coverage from a third-party provider.

We strongly recommend you email proof of insurance to scholarinsurance@ufic.ufl.edu before you leave your home country.

4. Enter the United States and check-in with EVS

Using your J-1 visa stamp and DS2019 Form, you may enter the United States up to 30 days earlier than the start date on your DS2019. If you will arrive after your start date, please email evs@ufic.ufl.edu and notify us. After you arrive, you must come to the EVS office and check-in with us. You cannot check-in without valid health insurance!