

**Office of International Student,
Faculty, and Staff Services**

Reed Hall, 1st Floor
1620 McElderry Street
Baltimore, MD 21205
(410)955-3371/FAX (410) 955-0871
www.hopkinsmedicine.org/intlsvcs

The H visa category is for the temporary employment or training of foreign nationals by a specific employer. There are eight different subcategories of H visa. The JHMI only sponsors the H-1B1 visa. The H-1B1 is used for individuals who will perform services in a 'specialty occupation'. Employment in H-1B1 status is limited to the **specific employer** and **employment** specified in the H-1B1 petition. Individuals in H-1B1 status are permitted to remain in the US as long as they maintain their H-1B1 status by working only for the employer who has sponsored their status and by adhering to the original terms and conditions of employment. **Any changes in employment must be reported to the OIS in advance.** Some examples of changes include, but are not limited to, the following: promotion, change in salary, change in benefits, or change of department. **Certain changes will require an amendment of your H-1B1 before they become effective.**

REMINDER: There is a difference between H-1B1 **status** and a H-1B1 **visa**. H1B1 **status** is granted when an employer receives an Approval Notice (Form I-797) from the US Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) approving the H-1B1 petition. A H-1B1 **visa** is the stamp placed in a foreign national's passport by the US Department of State and is granted for entry purposes to the US. Even if your visa stamp is valid, you can lose your legal H-1B1 **status** if you do not comply with the laws regulating your stay. **If you fail to maintain your legal H-1B1 status you will be considered unlawfully present in the US and may be subject to deportation.**

H-1B1 holders must be aware of and comply fully with the following compliance requirements set forth by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of State (DOS):

- You must maintain a valid passport at all times, unless exempt from passport requirements.
- Work only for the employer who has obtained an approved H-1B1 petition on your behalf.
- Report any proposed changes in employment conditions to the OIS well in advance of the proposed change. **REMINDER: Changes may require an amendment to your petition which requires AT LEAST 3 months to process.**
- H-1B1 status can be granted for an initial period of up to three (3) years. Extensions can also be granted thereafter in three-year increments. The cumulative maximum duration in H-1B1 classification is six (6) years, with limited exceptions.
- Non-immigrants in H-4 status (dependents of H-1B1 status holders) are NOT authorized to work.

Continued on Reverse Side

- The processing of an H-1B1 petition is an extremely complex and lengthy process involving government agencies at the local, state, and federal level. It is YOUR responsibility to ensure that the processing of any extension(s) of your H-1B1 status is started in a timely manner. [NOTE: You are strongly urged to start any amendment or extension process 6 months in advance.]

- “Dual Intent” is recognized for individuals in H-1B1 status. A foreign national in H-1B1 status is not subject to the presumption of immigrant intent under US Immigration Law.

- There is NO grace period for foreign nationals in H-1B1 status after the authorized period of stay ends. You must petition for an extension or change of status prior to the expiration of your current H-1B1 status. If you resign from your job or are terminated, and you have no other petition currently pending with USCIS, you are considered to be out of legal status.

- Do NOT travel outside the US without first consulting the OIS for the proper advisement and documentation.

- You must report a **change of address** to the OIS and USCIS **within 10 days** of the change. File a form AR-11, or update your address on the USCIS website, www.uscis.gov to notify them of the change. You should also report the change to other departments throughout JHMI (Payroll, Registrar, etc.).

- If you are subject to Special Registration, you must comply with all requirements. Comprehensive information regarding this program is available at the Department of Homeland Security’s website - <http://www.ice.gov/pi/specialregistration/>

IMPORTANT NOTE: This information is not exhaustive and is subject to change without notice. International students and scholars should contact the Office of International Services (OIS) at 410-955-3371 to arrange an appointment to discuss any questions or concerns related to your legal status in the United States.

The OIS Website is also an important resource for a variety of important information regarding your stay in the United States. To access the site, go to www.hopkinsmedicine.org/intlsvcs.

“I have read the information above about maintaining my legal status in the United States and understand that I must comply fully with these regulations in order to remain in legal status. I further understand that this information is not exhaustive and that I should direct any additional questions or concerns about my legal status to a professional in the Office of International Student, Faculty, and Staff Services, 1620 McElderry Street, Reed Hall 1st Floor, 410-955-3371.”

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

12/3/2008