

JHSPH Summer Institutes Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the appropriate visa status for a Summer Institute Participant?

JHMI Office of International Services will provide a DS-2019 document for all eligible participants in order for them to apply for a J-1 visa. All Summer Institute Participants are expected to adhere to the recommendation of the Office of International Services and the Summer Institute Coordinators and apply for a J1 visa at a U.S. Consulate.

2. Can I attend the Summer Institutes on a B1/B2 visitor's visa?

The B1/B2 visitor's visa and the visa waiver program are not appropriate for Institute Participants. Please see the following guidance from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) regarding the B1/B2 visa and study in the U.S. If you were to attempt to enter the U.S. on a B1/B2 visitor visa or the visa waiver program you may be detained at the airport upon arrival and possibly returned to your home country on the next available flight.

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnnextoid=f0df81a19d68a210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=e34c83453d4a3210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD>

3. I've already completed the J-1 Applicant portion of the E-Form. How long will it take the OIS to issue my Ds-2019?

The OIS will generate your new DS-2019 within 10 business days from when your **completed** application is received. After the OIS issues your Ds-2019 the Institute Coordinator for your particular Institute will FedEx the Ds-2019 directly to you.

4. How soon after I complete the Institute do I need to depart the U.S.?

Individuals in J-1 status have a 30 day grace period after the end date on their DS-2019. During this time, you can remain in the U.S. but it is not permissible to study or work. You must depart the U.S. by the end of the grace period.

5. What do I need to do if I plan to travel internationally during the Institute?

If you plan to travel abroad and re-enter the U.S. during the Institutes, please visit the Office of International Services prior to your departure to obtain a travel signature on your DS-2019. If you will not depart the U.S. until the end date on your DS-2019 or during your grace period, you will not need a travel signature.

6. What are the estimated living expenses for attending a BSPH Summer Institute?

We need to see a minimum of \$500 per week before we can issue the visa document for your visit. This does not include the cost of courses.

7. What should I do if I will not be able to begin the Institute on time?

Contact the Office of International Services at J1-Scholars@jhmi.edu and your Institute Coordinator to confirm that it is acceptable to arrive late.

8. When should I make my visa interview appointment?

You should wait until you have your DS-2019 before making your visa interview appointment. Priority appointments at the U.S. Consulate are typically given to J1 visa applicants.

9. If I have additional questions regarding my visa status, who should I contact?

Please contact the Office of International Services via email at J1-Scholars@jhmi.edu.

10. My visa stamp says I am subject to 212(e), what does this mean?

There are three reasons a J1 Scholar can be subject to 212(e). The J1 is engaging in clinical activities, is receiving governmental financing, or the J1's country of residence is on the Exchange Visitor Skills List issued by the US Department of State. If you happen to be marked subject to 212(e) it is most likely because your country of residence is on the Skills List. If you are marked subject to 212(e) you will have to reside in your home country for a total of two years before being eligible for immigrant status or H1B status. Being subject to 212(e) will not prevent you from returning to the US and you will still be able to enter the US in a number of different visa categories. If you plan to return to the US in less than two years after participating in a Summer Institute with the Bloomberg School of Public Health our office will be happy to assist you with any questions.

For additional 212(e) information please visit the US Department of State website below.

http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1267.html

11. Can I arrive in the U.S. prior to the start date on my DS-2019?

Yes, technically you may arrive up to 30 days prior to the start date on your DS-2019. If you plan to arrive early please inform your Summer Institute Program Coordinator and ensure that this is acceptable.

12. What documentation do I need to carry with me on the plane for my arrival to the U.S.?

You should make sure to have your valid passport, your original DS-2019 document, the documentation of your funding and contact information for someone at Johns Hopkins.

13. What do I need to bring when I check in with your Office?

Please bring your completed check in worksheet (your Summer Institute Coordinator will provide you with this), your Passport, Ds-2019, and I-94 card.

14. Do I need to have health insurance while in J1 status?

In order to maintain your J1 status you are required to maintain health insurance coverage at all times. If insurance is not provided for you by the University you will need to secure your own insurance through another source. While we cannot make any recommendations, some of our Internationals use ISO, www.isoa.org.

If JHMI is not covering your insurance you need to make sure the insurance you have meets the **minimum requirements** listed below:

- Medical benefits of at least \$50,000 per accident or illness;
- Repatriation of remains in the amount of \$7,500;
- Expenses associated with the medical evacuation of the exchange visitor to his or her home country in the amount of \$10,000; and
- A deductible not to exceed \$500 per accident or illness.