



---

## J-2 WORK AUTHORIZATION INFORMATION

---

This information is for the J-2 dependents of J-1 Exchange Visitors who want to apply for J-2 work authorization.

### Conditions you must meet as a J-2 dependent:

- You must hold valid J-2 status and the Exchange Visitor must hold valid J-1 status.
- Your income may not be used to support your J-1 spouse or parent.
- You may only work after you receive your Employment Authorization Document (EAD) card from the United States Citizenship & Immigration Service (USCIS) and only during the dates indicated on the EAD card.
- You may work part-time or full-time, at any job, for any employer (except that you may not practice medicine, even if you have a license). There is no legal limit to the amount that you may earn.
- USCIS can authorize J-2 employment for as long as the J-1 Exchange Visitor has permission to stay or for a period of four years, whichever is shorter. Permission to stay expires on the date shown on the DS-2019 form. Please note: USCIS only authorizes periods of work for one year at a time.

### How to apply

In most cases, applications for employment authorization for J-2 dependents should be mailed to the USCIS Service Center serving your region. You can submit an employment authorization request by sending the following documents to the USCIS office:

- **Form I765: Question 16 on the I765 should be completed as follow: ( c ) ( 5 )**
  - **A copy of the J-1 DS-2019**
  - **A copy of the J-2 DS-2019**
  - **A copy of J-2 passport (including name and expiration date)**
  - **A copy of J-2 visa**
  - **A copy of J-1 and J-2 I94 card (front and back)**
  - **Copies of any previous EAD cards (front and back) if applying for renewal**
  - **2 color passport photos**
  - **A letter from J-2 dependent:** The point of the letter is not to demonstrate need; it is to show DHS that the J-1 Exchange Visitor has sufficient resources for his or her own expenses and will not depend on your earnings. In the letter you should indicate the sources and amount of the J-1 Exchange Visitor's support and include a short budget or statement of family expenses and show the J-2's reason for wanting to work, which may include earning money for a worthwhile interest or activity such as family travel or recreational or cultural activities. In your letter you must say specifically that income from your earnings will not be used for the J-1 Exchange Visitor's support. We recommend attaching financial certification as well. The letter must also include the requested employment dates.
  - **Check made payable to the Department of Homeland Security:** check USCIS website for current application fee.
- ✓ **You may also want to include 3 copies of an English translation of your marriage certificate if your names are different.**
- ✓ **You can only begin work after you receive the EAD card and only for the dates shown on the card. J-2 visa holders are subject to social security taxes.**