



IMPORTANT!

US EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS FOR J-2 DEPENDENTS

EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION:

J-2 dependents **cannot** begin to work, either on-campus or off-campus, until they receive an Employment Authorization Document (EAD). This authorization is issued by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Currently, it takes **three to four months** for a J-2 dependent to receive the authorization to work. There are absolutely no exceptions to this federal regulation.

After arrival to the United States, J-2 dependents must file the I-765 Application for Employment Authorization with USCIS.

- The current cost of this document is \$410.
- Your J-2 dependent's EAD will be valid for 12 months or until the expiration of the DS-2019, whichever occurs first.
- Your J-2 dependent must file for renewal if your DS-2019 continues beyond the expiration date of the EAD. Your J-2 dependent must have the new card in hand to keep working. A J-2 dependent **cannot** continue working with the application receipt, unlike with other visa statuses.
- Your J-2 dependent must stop working when your DS-2019 ends.

OBTAINING THEIR OWN J-1 PROGRAM:

J-2 dependents **cannot** obtain their own J-1 visa if they have entered the United States as a dependent of a J-1 Research Scholar or a J-1 Professor. Before entering the U.S., your spouse may want to reconsider coming as a dependent and instead pursue their own J-1 program here at Penn State.

Further information can be found at:

<https://global.psu.edu/article/j-2-dependent-information>