

Special Visa Guidance for Postdoctoral Scholars

Postdoctoral scholars are typically trainees in advanced studies in their fields beyond the doctoral level to gain additional experience in research and teaching. International post-docs are sponsored in J-1 research scholar status if they are not coming to the post-doc position in F-1 OPT or J-1 Academic Training. In general, exceptions to bringing postdocs in J-1 research scholar status fall into one of the following categories.

- Currently in H-1B status
- U.S. permanent residency application started
- Spouse in tenure-track position for whom we are probably processing for a green card
- Married to U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident
- Received Ph.D. in U.S. in F-1 status and is currently on OPT
- Other compelling reasons as described by the department head or dean with request for an H-1B in lieu of the J-1 scholar category.