J-1 Research Scholar Qualification Guide

J-1 Research Scholars must...

- Have a minimum of a bachelor’s degree for STEM fields and a minimum of a master’s degree for non-STEM fields as well as proficiency gained via a combination of work and educational experience.
- Foster the exchange of ideas between Americans and foreign nationals and stimulate international collaborative teaching, lecturing, and research efforts.
- Promote the exchange of ideas, research, mutual enrichment, and linkages between research and educational institutions in the United States and foreign countries.
- Engage in research, teaching, and lecturing with their American colleagues; participate actively in cross-cultural activities with Americans; and ultimately share with their countrymen their experiences and increased knowledge of the United States and their substantive fields.
  - Approvable Research Activities:
    - Basic Research: Fundamental or pure research i.e. investigations for the advancement of knowledge without specific commercial objects
    - Applied Research: Solves practical problems of the modern world i.e. investigation for the discovery of new scientific knowledge and which have specific commercial objective with respect to either products or processes
    - Experimental Development: Evaluation research and its implementation i.e. systematic work drawing on the knowledge gained from research to produce additional knowledge which is directed to producing new product or processes to improve existing products or processes
- Share their expertise and perspectives through lecturing, teaching, training, or consulting. While there will be some on-boarding of scholars and training in the context of learning about the organization, they should not be recipients of continuous training, which is more appropriate for other types of exchange visitor placements, such as the Intern and Trainee category.
- Be employed by a company that had a physical location in the USA and work in person at the physical site a minimum of 60% of the time (e.g. 3 days per week).
- Participate in activities that are novel, creative, uncertain, systematic, transferable and/or reproducible.
J-1 Research Scholars must not...

☑ Participate in program that involve patient contact (physicians have a separate J-1 visa category).
☑ Be a candidate for a tenure track position
☑ Have been present in the USA as a J-1 Exchange Visitor for more than 6 months in the last 12 months
☑ Have been present in the USA as J-1 Research Scholar for any period time in the last 24 months, unless transferring from one valid program to another.
☑ Be assigned the following job duties (unless integral to R&D efforts): business development, quality assurance, technical services, efficiency surveys or management studies, routine data collection & dissemination, routine monitoring & testing, strategic planning, program planning & evaluation, marketing of products & services, or market research.

Qualification Questions

Your applicant may qualify as a J-1 Research Scholar if the answer is “Yes” for all of the following questions.

1. Is the applicant a professional conducting research in a field in which they have significant knowledge or experience?
2. Does the applicant have a minimum of a Bachelor’s degree (or the equivalent)?
3. Is the applicant’s primary purpose in the U.S. is to conduct research, observe, lecture or consult in connection with a research project?
4. Will the applicant’s presence foster the exchange of ideas between Americans and foreign nationals and stimulate international collaborative teaching, lecturing and research efforts?

Your company may qualify to host a J-1 Research Scholar if the answer is “Yes” for all of the following question.

1. Does your company offer applicants a bonafide research position that is in line with the participant’s educational and professional experiences?
2. Does your company offer opportunities for collaboration and cultural exchange with American colleagues?
3. Does the applicants role exclude all of the following activities: business development, routine product testing, quality assurance, technical services, efficiency surveys or management studies, routine data collection & dissemination, routine monitoring & testing, strategic planning, program planning & evaluation, marketing of products & services, or market research?