

Taxes for J-1 Exchange Visitors



“Tax Season” in the U.S. refers to the period between January-April where businesses and individuals [prepare and file income taxes](#). To file taxes, individuals prepare financial statements and reports from the previous year and submit documentation to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The period opens around January 1st, and the deadline to file is typically around April 15th, but the IRS will announce specific dates every year.

Who should be filing taxes?

If you earn income from a U.S. source in a given year while on your program, you must file taxes in the next upcoming tax season. Any participants who do not earn a U.S. income are still required to file [Form 8843](#) during tax season.

Cultural Vistas has partnered with [Sprintax](#) to provide assistance to those considered “non-residents” with filing federal taxes, including Form 8843. Check out Sprintax’s [tax guide](#) for J-1 visa holders!



Important guidelines to remember

- Cultural Vistas and Sprintax can only offer federal tax filing assistance to those considered “non-residents.” Check [here](#) to see if you are considered a “non-resident.”
- If you are considered a “resident,” you can look into [Turbo Tax](#) as a free way to file your taxes.
- Check to see if you need to pay [state taxes](#). While we cannot offer a free code with Sprintax to do so, you can pay to use Sprintax to file your state taxes.
- Cultural Vistas cannot advise on individual tax-related matters. Please reach out to Sprintax (hello@sprintax.com) with specific questions on how to file taxes, or visit their [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.

Here is what the general timeline of what tax season looks like!



January/February: Cultural Vistas will email a code to all J-1 participants to file federal tax returns using Sprintax

March: Sprintax will hold an informational webinar for J-1 participants to answer tax-related inquiries

April and beyond: The IRS might reach out to you to issue you a refund or ask you to clarify the information that you provided in your tax returns. This is normal!

December/January: Cultural Vistas will send an informational email to all J-1 participants to explain tax season

February-March: J-1 participants should receive their [W-2](#) from their employer if they are earning income from a U.S. source.

March-April: J-1 participants should file federal as well as state/local (if applicable) tax returns

**YOU
DID IT!**