J-1 Student Academic Training

What is Academic Training?
A student may participate in academic training program during his or her studies, without wages or other remuneration, with the approval of the Academic Dean or Advisor and the Responsible Officer. A student may be authorized to participate in academic training programs for wages or other remuneration during his or her studies or commencing not later than thirty (30) days after completion of studies.

Responsible Officer
J-1 Academic Training is authorized by your J-1 program sponsor. To apply for Academic Training, you must know who represents your J-1 sponsor and issued your DS-2019 form. If University of the Pacific is your sponsor, the advisers at IPS will evaluate your application and authorized your Academic Training.

Eligibility Requirements for Academic Training
1. must be in the U.S. primarily to study rather than engage in academic training.
2. must be done with a specific employer or training site.
3. must be directly related to the major field of study listed on the Forms DS-2019.
4. must obtain an offer letter with the following information:
   • Employer’s complete address;
   • Name of student’s academic training;
   • Start date of employment;
   • End date of employment;
   • Number of hours/week;
   • Employer contact information (i.e. employer’ federal identification number, telephone number, name of student’s immediate supervisor, and employer’s signature and title).
5. must maintain health insurance coverage for yourself and any J-2 dependents during the entire time you are in the Exchange Visitor Program.
6. must be in good academic standing.
7. must have a Letter of Recommendation from your academic dean or adviser and must include the following recommendation:
   • Goals and objectives of the specific training program;
   • Description of the training program (location, the name and address of the training supervisor, number of hours per week, and date of the training);
   • How the training relates to the student’s major field of study; and
   • Why it is an integral or critical part of the academic program of the exchange visitor student.
8. must received written approval in advance from the RO/ARO for the duration and type of academic training.
Time Limitations on Academic Training

1. Degree Programs
Students in degree programs are permitted an overall limit of 18 months, which includes all academic training, whether before or after completion of studies. The total training period may not exceed the amount of time spent in the full course of study.

2. Postdoctoral Training
Postdoctoral training after completion of a U.S. degree the overall limit is 36 months. A new Form DS-2019 will be issued for the second 18 months.

3. Nondegree Program
Students in a prescribed course of study in a nondegree program, the total stay is limited to a maximum of 24 months, inclusive of all study time and any authorized academic training.

General Limitations

1. In general, your employment may be authorized for the length of time necessary to complete the goals and objectives of the training, provided that the amount of time is approved by both your academic adviser and your Responsible Officer. It may not exceed the amount of time it took for you to complete your full course of study, or 18 months, whichever is shorter. If you receive a Ph.D., and are engaged in post-doctoral training, your academic training may last as long as 36 months (see an advisor at the IPS for detail)
2. Part-time employment for “Academic Training” counts against the 18 or 36 months limit the same as full-time employment.
3. Earning more than one degree does not increase your eligibility for Academic Training.

Applying upon completion of your program of study

1. Academic Training approved after completion of your program must be reduced by any prior periods of “Academic Training.”
2. “Academic Training” following completion of your program of study must involve paid employment.
3. You must obtain a written offer of appropriate employment and present a copy to the IPS not later than the ending date of your program, or you will lose eligibility for “Academic Training” after completion.
4. If you plan to leave the United States after you complete your program of study and re-enter the country for J-1 “Academic Training,” you must obtain employment authorization before you leave. Otherwise you will have trouble re-entering. Consult the IPS for advice.

Part-Time Academic Training
All academic training is counted as full time, even if employment is on a part-time basis.
**Health Insurance Requirement**
Maintain health insurance coverage for yourself and J-2 dependents during the entire time you participate in an Exchange Visitor Program. Insurance coverage must meet the requirements of the U.S. Department of State or backed by the full faith and credit of the government of the Exchange Visitor’s home country shall be deemed to meet the requirement. Required coverage for students and dependents is as follows:

1. Medical benefits of at least 50,000 per accident or illness
2. Repatriation in the amount of $7,500.00
3. Medical Evacuation to the country of permanent residence in the amount of $10,000.00

It is an Exchange Visitor responsibility to renew the insurance coverage as well as for his/her dependent(s) each year of stay. Failure to maintain the insurance coverage as set forth or any misrepresentation to the J-1 Program Sponsor will be considered in violation of the University Rules and will be subject to termination as an Exchange Visitor participant.