Hosting a Foreign Scholar

The J Visa
Purpose of the J Visa

• To aid in educational and cultural exchange
  – Go home and tell them how wonderful we are
  – Not cheap labor
  – Not a career launcher

• Knowing how the government sees it helps us understand the rules
Common Categories at UT

• Research Scholar/Professor
  – Up to 5 years
  – Restricted ability to return after program ends

• Short Term Scholar
  – 6 month maximum
  – Enhanced ability to return

• Intern
  – Current or recently graduated student
Paths

→ Request comes to CIE (Sometimes via HR)

→ CIE enters data into SEVIS

→ CIE notifies department for pick-up

→ Department ships documents to J visitor

→ Visitor arranges for visa application

→ Visitor arrives
Extensions and Transfers

• Extensions are possible
  – Up to the time limit in the current category
  – Financial support
  – Must be continuing same work not a new project

• Transfers are possible
  – Subject to time limits
  – Subject to “purpose of the current program”
    • Letters of explanation
Visiting Home and Elsewhere

• Going to conferences in the US and abroad
  – Very appropriate
  – Less than 30 days out of country
  – Returning to continue original program

• Visiting home
  – Less than 30 days

• Out of country option
  – More than 30 days
  – Absence must be part of program
Ready, Set, Go

• Deciding to use the J visa and getting ready
  – What do you need to think about and be prepared to do

• Getting set up for arrival
  – Tasks and procedures

• The visit comes to an end and the visitor goes home
  – Tasks and procedures.
• Is the J appropriate
  – Temporary position
    • No candidates for a tenure track
    • Any chance this person may be in line for a position

• How long will the program last
  – Will there be an on-going relationship
  – Future visits

• Funding
  – UT or some other government or institutional source?
    • If UT position, has HR been involved?
    • Personal funds? Not Usually!!

• What support are you willing and able to give
  • Salary, insurance, help with housing, banking, transportation, etc.
Ready

• How soon do they need to be here
  – Visa application and security clearances
  – Are delays okay
• Host professor must actually host the visitor
  – Guidance, supervision, planning, etc.
• Determining language ability
Setting Up

• Get them into IRIS
  – Volcard, salary, library
• Airport pickup
• Housing both temporary and long term
• Insurance (ours, theirs and evacuation)
• Household items
• Transportation temporary and long term
CIE Responsibilities

• Validating in SEVIS
  – Time sensitive
  – Physically report to CIE
    • Rolling check-in

• Weekly Orientations
  – Immigration regulations
  – Health care and insurance
  – Taxes
  – Cultural opportunities
Going Home

• Notifying CIE
  – Crucial if departing more than 30 days prior to end date on DS-2019
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More information can be found on our website:
http://international.utk.edu/isss/immigration-information/j1-scholar/for-depts-2/

For specific questions, please contact Dave Lawson at the Center For International Education.