

Instruction Sheet for Initial J-1 Applicants

Form DS-2019, “Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor Status (J-Nonimmigrant)” is issued by ECFMG for the J-1 physician identified in Box 1. Additional Forms DS-2019 for J-2 dependent family members may also be issued. Forms DS-2019 are sent to the Training Program Liaison (TPL) at the host institution after all necessary application materials have been received, reviewed, and approved. The TPL will photocopy all Form(s) DS-2019 for the physician and any dependents for their institutional records and then provide the original(s) to the J-1 physician. Please note the following:

- Form DS-2019 is a legal document that corresponds to the applicant’s record in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), a U.S. government database.
- Form DS-2019 is used to acquire J-1 visa status. Review the [“Information Sheet for Initial ECFMG-Sponsored J-1 Exchange Visitor Physicians”](#) for a summary of the two options by which one can apply for J-1 visa status. Applicants who will be traveling with a Canadian passport should review this [Information Sheet for Canadian physicians](#). Procedures may vary depending on citizenship, country of birth, and last legal permanent residence of the visa applicant.
- The applicant is *not* eligible to begin training until the Form DS-2019 has been processed and the applicant has acquired J-1 visa status.
- Form DS-2019 must be returned to ECFMG if the applicant will not pursue J-1 visa status.

REQUIRED ACTIONS FOR TPLS

What To Do Upon Receipt of Form DS-2019	What To Do Upon Applicant’s Arrival to the United States
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carefully review all biographic information for accuracy. • Photocopy all enclosed Forms DS-2019 (for the applicant and dependents) for your records. • Mail the enclosed original Form(s) DS-2019 to the applicant. For expedited and trackable delivery, EVSP recommends using an express shipping courier. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and sign the <i>Validation of Initial Arrival in J-1 Status</i> form and upload as a PDF through MyIntealth with copies of the applicant’s: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ I-94 card (Arrival/Departure Record). ◊ J-1 visa stamp in passport issued by U.S. Consulate (Canadian citizens do not have a J visa stamp). ◊ Form I-797 (applicable if the applicant was approved for a change of status in the United States through USCIS). <p>The <i>Validation of Initial Arrival in J-1 Status</i> form is available at www.ecfm.org/evsp/arrival.pdf.</p>

Validation and Social Security Card

Once ECFMG has received the completed and signed *Validation of Initial Arrival in J-1 Status* form and supporting documents, ECFMG will validate the J-1 physician’s arrival to the United States in SEVIS. Once validated in SEVIS, a J-1 physician’s program start date cannot be amended. J-1 physicians cannot apply for a U.S. Social Security Card/Number until ECFMG has validated their SEVIS record. ECFMG recommends that J-1 physicians wait 11 business days after being validated in SEVIS before applying for a Social Security Number (SSN). TPLs can view the SEVIS “Validation Date” in the “Search” tab results of MyIntealth using the “Validated Physicians” filter. On the Social Security Card application, at the question about “citizenship,” J-1 physicians should select “other.” Applying for an SSN prior to the recommended waiting period may delay issuance of the Social Security Card.

Important Information for TPLs

- Provide timely notification to Intealth of any *proposed* program changes or events that may affect a J-1 physician’s training plan/duration (i.e., leave of absence, resignation, termination, remedial training, delay in return from overseas travel, etc.) using the required reporting forms at www.ecfm.org/evsp/resources.html.
- Instruct J-1 physicians to review the EVSP travel webpage at www.ecfm.org/evsp/during-travel.html prior to proposed travel outside of the United States, including travel to Canada and Mexico.
- Direct J-1 physicians who are moving to notify Intealth within 10 days of their change in U.S. residential address via MyIntealth.
- Advise J-1 physicians to maintain a current e-mail address with Intealth. The e-mail address listed in MyIntealth is considered to be the official e-mail of record and is used by Intealth to notify J-1 physicians of important issues such as sponsorship expiration and to provide important updates and announcements.