

## **Overview of the J-1 Student –Intern Immigration Category**

The U.S. Department of State allows students who are enrolled in degree programs at home universities outside the US to be sponsored for internships as J-1 Student Interns in the US. LSU uses the J-1 Student Intern category for undergraduate students from academic institutions outside the US coming to LSU to engage in internship activities. Student interns may participate in a student internship program for up to 12 months for each degree/major. The internship must be full-time; that is, consisting of 32 hours per week. The internship may be with or without wages or other compensation. However, the student must provide evidence of personal or other funding sufficient to cover all travel, health insurance, and living expenses for the period of internship. The student must have a faculty sponsor at LSU who must agree to train and supervise the student and to provide the International Service (IS) the training plan.

The Student Intern category is complex and requires a lot of paperwork and oversight. We recommend that the host department start the process of requesting the J-1 Student Intern documents from the International Services at least 3 months before the intended date of internship.

### **Student Intern Eligibility Requirements**

#### **The LSU faculty sponsor must ensure that:**

- The student is currently enrolled in and pursuing a degree at an accredited postsecondary academic institution outside the United States.
  
- The student is in good academic standing at his or her home institution outside the United States.
- The student has sufficient finances to support himself or herself (and any accompanying dependents) for their entire stay in the United States, including housing and living expenses.
- The student is primarily in the United States to engage in a student internship program rather than to engage in employment or provide services to LSU.
- The student will return to his or her academic program outside the United States to fulfill and obtain a degree from such academic institution after completion of the student internship program.
- The student has verifiable English language skills sufficient to function on a day-to-day basis in the internship environment. The sponsor must verify the student's English language ability through
  - A sponsor-conducted interview,
  - A recognized English language test, or
  - Signed documentation from an academic institution or English language school.

### **Training Plan**

Prior to issuing a Form DS-2019 (J-1 Certificate of Eligibility), for the prospective student intern to apply for a J-1 visa at the US Consulate abroad, the program sponsor is required to complete

and secure the requisite signatures on Form DS-7002 (T/IPP - Training/Internship Placement Plan). The LSU faculty sponsor must complete the DS-7002 and submit a copy to the International Services. The training plan includes the intended dates of the internship; the goals and the objectives of the internship; the program details including location, contact information, number of hours of work per week, compensation (if any), nature of supervision the intern will receive, and a description of how the student internship will enhance the student's educational program at his or her home institution. The IS will provide an executed copy of the Form DS-7002 to each signatory.

### **Nature of the Internship Activity**

#### **The faculty sponsor must ensure that:**

- The internship tasks consist of no more than 20 percent clerical work.
- All tasks assigned to the student are necessary for the completion of the student internship program
- The internship exposes the student intern to American techniques, methodologies, and technology, and expands upon the student's existing knowledge and skills, and not duplicate the student intern's prior experience.
- The internship exists solely to assist the student intern in achieving the educational objectives of his or her current degree program at his/her home institution, and does not serve to fill a labor need
- The internship consists of "work-based learning," rather than ordinary employment or unskilled labor.
- The internship does not place a student intern in any position that involves unskilled or casual labor; child care or elder care; aviation; clinical work or any other work that involves patient care or contact, including any work that would require the student interns to provide therapy, medication, or other clinical or medical care (e.g., sports or physical therapy, psychological counseling, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, social work, speech therapy, or early childhood education.
- The internship does not involve any activity that could bring the Exchange Visitor Program or the Department of State into notoriety or disrepute.

### **Evaluations**

The faculty sponsor must: conduct a concluding written evaluation of the student intern at the end of the internship. For a program lasting more than six months, the faculty sponsor must do a midpoint and a concluding evaluation. A copy of the evaluation must be given to the student and the International Services.

### **Employment**

Student interns are permitted to engage in employment only if such employment is approved by International Services and the student's home institution's dean or academic advisor, and only as outlined on the student's placement form –DS-7002.