



Participants

How To Apply

- [Eligibility and Fees](#)
- [Designated Sponsor List](#)
- [About DS-2019](#)

- [Detailed Description of the DS-2019](#)

- [Interviews & Documents](#)

Current Participants

Participant Experiences

Common Questions for Participants

Videos

About DS-2019

The Form DS-2019 or "Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status" is the basic document used in the administration of the exchange visitor program.

This form permits a prospective exchange visitor to seek an interview at a [U.S. embassy or consulate](#) in order to obtain a J visa to enter the United States.

The Form DS-2019 identifies the exchange visitor and their [designated sponsor](#) and provides a brief description of the exchange visitor's program, including the start and end date, category of exchange, and an estimate of the cost of the exchange program. Read the [detailed description of the Form DS-2019](#).

How can I obtain a Form DS-2019?

Designated sponsors are authorized to issue this form to prospective exchange visitors they have screened and selected for participation in the exchange visitor program (see [How To Apply](#)). The information in this form is completed by the sponsor prior to being given to the participant, who once given the DS-2019, can apply at a U.S. embassy or consulate for the J-1 visa.

Issuance of the J-1 visa, like all non-immigrant visas, is at the discretion of Consular Officers viewing visa applications at U.S. embassies and consulates. This means that even if you are accepted to an exchange visitor program and have received your DS-2019, the Consular Officers decide if you receive the J-1 visa.

Who should I contact if I have a question or concern about my Form DS-2019?

The designated sponsor, whose name and telephone number can be found on the Form DS-2019, should be contacted for questions and concerns about your Form DS-2019. Your designated sponsor is responsible for assisting and advising you on all matters regarding your exchange visitor program.

J-1 Visa Basics

- [Facts & Figures](#)
- [About J-2 Visa](#)
- [Other U.S. Student Visas](#)
- [Common Questions](#)

Programs

Participants

- [How to Apply](#)
- [Current Participants](#)
- [Participant Experiences](#)
- [Common Questions for Participants](#)
- [Videos](#)

Program Sponsors

- [Become a Sponsor](#)
- [Current Sponsors](#)
- [How to Administer a Program](#)
- [Common Questions for Program Sponsors](#)

Host Families/Employers

- [For Host Families](#)
- [For Employers](#)
- [For Schools](#)
- [Common Questions for Host Families/Employers](#)

RESOURCES

- [SEVIS login](#)
- [SEVIS Manual \(PDF\)](#)
- [DS-2019](#)
- [Sanctioned Sponsors \(PDF\)](#)
- [Regulations and Compliance Administration](#)
- [Contacts](#)
- [About Us](#)
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cited in ASSE International, Inc. v. Kerry, No. 14-56402 archived on November 17, 2015