



J-1 Exchange Visitor Program Support Statement

For more than 50 years, **the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program**, a Department of State regulated set of J-1 visa cultural exchange programs, has helped bring international college students and young professionals to the United States to learn about American culture and meet real Americans — at no cost to the U.S. taxpayer.

The Exchange Visitor Program includes such successful exchanges as Summer Work Travel, Camp Counselor, Au Pair, Intern, and Trainee.

These exchange programs enhance America's diplomatic success and national security by improving the perception of the United States in the eyes of future leaders from more than 90 countries. In 2016, the vast majority of participants reported having a positive experience on their programs and in the United States.

Additionally, J-1 exchange programs greatly benefit America and Americans. The programs add significantly to the U.S. economy. They support seasonal businesses in tourist, vacation, and resort communities. They support American working families by providing an affordable and culturally rich child care option. They bring camp counselors from all over the world to interact with young American campers. They bring future business leaders to intern and train with American companies, creating new international partnerships and supporting American business development abroad.

The J-1 Exchange Visitor Program is good for Americans and great for America.

The J-1 Exchange Visitor Program is necessary to the diplomatic and national security success of our country, as well as the continued economic viability of our communities and our families. The program is well regulated by the Department of State, protecting the welfare of both international participants and U.S. workers.

As the American businesses, families, chambers of commerce, business and trade associations, and community leaders who embrace and support exchange program, we are advocating for strong and thriving international cultural exchange programs, especially the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program. We ask our leaders to support J-1 and other cultural exchange programs. We recommit ourselves to the efficacy of these programs, and strongly believe that our country should not only maintain them, but also grow them in the future.