

## WORK PERMISSION FOR J-2 VISA HOLDERS

A dependent (the spouse or minor child) of a J-1 visa holder is given J-2 status upon entering the United States. J-2 visa holders are eligible to apply for work permission if the following requirements are met:

1. The J-1 visa holder maintains his/her status in the United States.
2. The money earned by the J-2 must *not* be used to support the J-1 visa holder.

This employment authorization allows the J-2 to work for any employer for any number of hours as long as the card is valid and as long as J-2 status is maintained. If the card expires and the J-1 spouse/parent has maintained his/her J-1 status, then work permission may be extended by following these same procedures.

The J-2 should write a cover letter to accompany the application for employment authorization. This letter should explain why work permission is being sought [examples: earn money for school or travel, further own professional career, etc.] and outline the family's financial resources to clearly demonstrate that all expenses for the J-1 are met without the help of the J-2. This cover letter should also list all items included in the petition. A sample letter is attached to this form.

The following items should be included in the application:

1. Cover letter from the J-2 requesting work permission
2. Financial statement showing funds for the entire family's expenses
3. Form I-765 [Reason for eligibility: (c)(5)]
4. Photocopy of your J-2 DS-2019 Form and your spouse or parent's J-1 DS-2019 Form
5. Photocopy of both sides of the I-94 for the J-1 spouse or parent
6. Photocopy of both sides of the I-94 for the J-2
7. Copy of marriage certificate for spouses with different last names
8. Two immigration-style photographs (see enclosed handout)
9. \$340 check or money order payable to "U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services"

Please photocopy the entire application package, including your check. Be sure to send your application via Certified Mail from the post office to:

USCIS Vermont Service Center  
75 Lower Welden St.  
St. Albans, VT 05479

Upon approving the application, USCIS will send the Employment Authorization Document (EAD) to the address indicated on the application (Form I-765). After receiving the EAD, the J-2 must apply for a Social Security number.

**Sample Letter and Financial Statement:**

	Address of J-2 Telephone # Date of letter
Director USCIS Vermont Service Center 75 Lower Welden St. St. Albans, VT 05479	
Dear Immigration Inspector:	
I am a J-2 dependent of a J-1 <i>researcher/student/visiting professor</i> at Georgetown University. I would like to request permission to work in the United States.	
My <i>husband/wife/parent</i> is a <i>researcher/student/visiting professor</i> at Georgetown University's Department of _____. He/she has enough financial resources to meet our expenses. Our monthly expenses consist of the following:	
<i>House/apartment rental</i>	\$ _____
<i>Groceries</i>	\$ _____
<i>Utilities (electric, gas, water, telephone)</i>	\$ _____
<i>Health/dental insurance</i>	\$ _____
<i>Transportation costs</i>	\$ _____
<i>Clothing, shoes, etc.</i>	\$ _____
I request permission to work in order to <i>save money to further my education/to travel/to further my career</i> . The income I earn will not be used to financially support my <i>husband/wife/parent</i> .	
Thank you for your consideration of my application.	
Sincerely, <i>Signature</i>	

Please keep in mind that work permission will not be granted to the J-2 if USCIS believes that the money earned by the J-2 will be used to help support the J-1 visa holder. Therefore, please consider your cost estimates and finances carefully.

This sample letter should be used only as a guide. Your letter should accurately reflect the situation of the J-2. To use another example, if the money is needed to help pay for education, the expense statement can be modified to reflect educational expenses by substituting a budget for the J-2 requesting work (and for any children, if applicable):

<b>Annual Income</b>	<b>Annual Expenses</b>
Family Income	Tuition
Home Government Grant	Books and Fees
U.S. Government Grant	Health Insurance
Salary from Home	Portion of Rent
University Stipend	Portion of Food
Other Income	Clothing
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>

*This handout is intended to provide basic information only and should not be used as a substitute for professional advice from qualified immigration attorneys or practitioners.*