



Illinois State Board of Education

Immigration matters

Equity • Quality • Collaboration • Community

Agenda

- Program origin & ISBE's role as sponsor
- Immigration rules and regulations
- Important things to keep in mind
- Questions



Program Origin & sponsorship



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Big Picture



- Cultural Exchange program administered by the **Department of State** to provide foreigners the opportunity to actively learn about American culture
- Exchange visitors enter the U.S. on a J-1 visa and have the ability to work as a part of this program

ISBE's role in the BridgeUSA program

- ISBE was authorized by the Department of State to serve as a sponsor of exchange visitors (we use the term Visiting International Teacher/VIT)
- We have sponsored VITs for approximately 20 years

Responsible and Alternate Responsible Officers

On our staff

- Joanne Clyde – Responsible Officer
- Claudia Valencia – Alternate Responsible Officer
- Seng Naolhu – Alternate Responsible Officer

What can we do?

- Update Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)
- Issue and sign DS-2019s
- Program maintenance
- Program reporting

SEVIS



SEVIS

Student & Exchange Visitor
Information System

1-800-892-4829
SEVIS Help Desk

Sign In

User Name:

Password:

By clicking "Login", you agree to our Security Consent.

Login

Register for New Account

[Forgot Your Password?](#)



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Immigration rules and regulations



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DS-2019

U.S. Department of State
CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR EXCHANGE VISITOR STATUS (J-NONIMMIGRANT)

0489 APPROVAL NO. 185-6119
EXPIRES: 10/31/2020
ESTIMATED PROCESSED TIME: 45 min
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1. Applicant/Altitude Name: [REDACTED] Gender: MALE	
Date of Birth: [REDACTED] Country of Birth: SPAIN Citizenship Country Code: SP Citizenship Country: SPAIN	J-1
Legal Permanent Resident Country Code: [REDACTED] Legal Permanent Resident Country: [REDACTED] Position Code: 222 Position: SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER OR STAFF	
2. Program Name: Illinois State Board of Education Program Number: G-5-00321 Participating Program Official Description: TEACHER	
3. Form Dates Period: From (mm/dd/yyyy): 10-01-2020 To (mm/dd/yyyy): 06-30-2023	
4. Exchange Visitor Category: TEACHER Subject Field Code Remarks: 13.0201 This teacher has been hired to teach core subject areas in secondary education.	
5. Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer: Name of Official Preparing Form: Joanna Clyde Title: Responsible Officer Name of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer: Joanna M. Clyde Address: 130 West Randolph, Suite 14-300, Chicago, IL 60601 Telephone Number: 312-763-2797 Date (mm/dd/yyyy): 09-25-2020	
6. Statement of Responsible Officer for Release/Nonrelease of EXCHANGE VISITOR: I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the information furnished herein is true and correct and is in conformity with the objectives of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended.	
7. PRELIMINARY ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULAR OR IMMIGRATION OFFICER REGARDING SECTION 51(a)(2) OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT AND PL 94-486, AS AMENDED (see item 4(a) of page 2). The Exchange Visitor is to be engaged: 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Not subject to the two-year residence requirement. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Subject to two-year residence requirement based on: A. <input type="checkbox"/> Government financing and/or B. <input type="checkbox"/> The Exchange Visitor Skills Law and/or C. <input type="checkbox"/> PL 94-486 as amended. (ALL US-UK PARTICIPANTS G-3-REG-1 AND ALL ALLEN PARTICIPANTS SPONSORED BY PARADIGM ARE SUBJECT TO THE TWO-YEAR HOME RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT.)	
8. TRAVEL VALIDATION BY RESPONSIBLE OFFICER (Maximum validation period is 1 year-9 months). EXCEPT: Maximum validation period is up to 6 months for Short-term Scholars and 4 months for Camp Counselors and Summer Work Travel. 1) Exchange Visitor is in good standing at the present time. Date (mm/dd/yyyy): Signature of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer: Exchange Visitor is in good standing at the present time. Date (mm/dd/yyyy):	
9. EXCHANGE VISITOR CERTIFICATION: I have read and agree with the statement in item 2 on page 2 of this document. Signature of Applicant: [REDACTED] Place: [REDACTED] Date (mm/dd/yyyy): [REDACTED]	

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- Keeping your DS-2019 updated is an important part of maintaining your status
- Program start and end date
- Travel endorsement
- Signature at the bottom



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Travel endorsement

- Complete Form 95-89 (found in your folder and online)
- Email form to exchangeteachers@isbe.net
- You will receive a response from us informing you if form is accepted or whether something is missing
- If form is accepted we will advise you on your options to obtain the travel endorsement
- Travel endorsement is valid for 1 year



Cross-cultural activity report

- Sponsors must require each exchange teacher to complete, within the United States, and during each academic year of program participation, at least one cross-cultural activity from two categories

Note: Form template found in your folder

Cross-cultural activity category 1

- An activity for the teacher's classroom, larger host school or host school district population, or the community at large designated to give an overview of the history, traditions, heritage, culture, economy, educational system and/or other attributes of his or her home country.



Cross-cultural activity category 2

- An activity that involves U.S. student dialogue with schools or students in another country, preferably in the exchange teacher's home school, through virtual exchange or other means, in order to supplement the goals of the in-person exchange



General J-1 rules

Employment: You should not engage in unauthorized employment

Mandatory reporting: Serious incidents

Contact information update: Must inform ISBE immediately & complete ISBE form 95-89 (Form found in folder and on ISBE's website)

Grace period : 30 days after completing program – Can travel within the U.S. during this time but once you depart you cannot return on your J-1 visa

Insurance

- Program participants and their dependents are required to have medical coverage with the following minimum benefits [22 CFR 62.14]
 - Medical benefits of at least \$100,000 per accident or illness
 - Repatriation of remains in the amount of \$25,000
 - Expenses associated with the medical evacuation of the exchange visitor to his or her home country in the amount of \$50,000
 - A deductible not to exceed \$500 per accident or illness



Program Extension

- VITs are eligible to request a one or two-year program extension (before completing year 3) *if* hiring district offers employment extension and is willing to pay for the extension
- Discuss this with employer at the beginning of your 3rd year in the program
- Extension requests are submitted to and approved by the Department of State, Office of Private Sector Designation
- All cross-cultural activity reports must be on file



Important things to keep in mind



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Things to keep in mind

IMPORTANT

- Beware of scams!!
- Report COVID-19 cases to us (email Claudia at cvalenci@isbe.net)
- Email us if you are considering departing permanently



Questions ?



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