

VISIT/VISER Program Application Timeline

Estimated time to obtain J-1 visa: 3-9 months

UW DEPARTMENT

The complete set of application materials which includes the VISIT J Visa Request form with signatures, copy of passport, financial documentation, and TOEFL/IELTS scores, and DS-7002 form with signatures, must be received by the VISIT/VISER team **no later than 12 weeks (3 months)** before the student's start date. *Plan the start date carefully.* The student cannot enter the US after the start date, and they **MUST** start their program on the start date (a weekday).

STUDENT

Why 12 weeks? This is to allow sufficient time for the VISIT/VISER team to review the application and for the DS-2019 form to be generated and shipped. Most importantly, it allows adequate time for the student to attend an appointment at the US Consulate in their home country to obtain their J-1 visa. Depending on the country, it can typically take 3–12 weeks for the student to obtain their J-1 visa and make travel and housing arrangements in Seattle.

CHANGING A START DATE:

If the student needs to change the start date, an amended DS-2019 is required. Any request for an amended DS-2019 must be emailed to uwvisit@uw.edu at least 5 weeks before the new start date.

Please note that if the student has received their visa, they do NOT need to schedule another visa appointment if they request an amended DS-2019.

Key Players in the VISIT/VISER Application Process:

Student Intern: The J-1 exchange visitor category for a UW VISIT participant. To be eligible, student interns must be working on a degree in their home country at the time of their VISIT internship and must return home to complete that degree following their internship.

Student Researcher: The J-1 exchange visitor category for a UW VISER participant. To be eligible, student researchers must be working on a degree in their home country at the time of their VISER program and must return home to complete that degree following their program.

UW Host Supervisor: UW faculty member who is supervising the student.

Department Contact (DC): The individual within the UW host department who works with the prospective VISIT/VISER participant and the supervisor to complete the application process.

VISIT/VISER Team: Oversees the VISIT and VISER programs and visa compliance for program participants. The VISIT/VISER office issues the DS-2019 and is the go-to source for immigration questions related to students' J-1 visas, the VISIT and VISER program application process, logistical questions, etc.

APPLICATION STEPS	Approx. Time
<i>All applicants must have completed a TOEFL or IELTS English proficiency exam within the past 2 years. Applications are not accepted without TOEFL or IELTS score results, so students must factor in the time to schedule and take the exam when planning their internship dates.</i>	varies
1. International student contacts a UW professor. Professor agrees to become the student's UW host supervisor.	2-6 weeks
2. Student and supervisor agree on internship goals that meet the purpose of the VISIT/VISER program as a cultural exchange, within an American academic research context, that benefits the student.	2-6 weeks
3. Supervisor or Department Contact (DC) downloads VISIT or VISER J-Visa Request Form and DS-7002 (VISIT only) from the program website.	1 day
4. Supervisor, DC, and student complete application and DS-7002 (VISIT only).	4-8 weeks
5. DC emails completed application and supporting materials to VISIT/VISER team (uwvisit@uw.edu) <i>no less than 12 weeks before the anticipated internship start date.</i>	1 day
6. VISIT/VISER team carefully reviews the application packet and processes the DS-2019.	2 weeks
7. VISIT/VISER team sends DS-2019 by express mail and emails additional information to student, DC, and supervisor.	2-10 days
8. Upon receipt of DS-2019 form, student makes a visa appointment with the US Consulate in their home country (fees apply).	2-15 days
9. Following visa appointment, US Consulate issues J-1 visa. Time varies by country depending on administrative processing requirements.	1-10 weeks
VISIT/VISER students can enter the US up to 30 days before their internship start date (as shown on the DS-2019). This provides time for students to travel to Seattle, find housing, and settle into their new surroundings. <i>Students must begin their internship on their start date (not early and not late) and are not allowed to continue their internship after their end date.</i>	Up to 30 days