



## CONTINUING YOUR STUDIES IN THE UNITED STATES

### *Please remember:*

- As a Fulbright grantee, you must fulfill a two-year home residency requirement at the conclusion of your academic program. By transferring sponsorship or by re-entering the U.S. on a new J-1 or an F-1 visa, you are only delaying fulfillment of that requirement until the end of your studies.
- Your Accident and Sickness Program for Exchanges (ASPE) health coverage terminates at the end of your Fulbright program. If you are going to remain in or re-enter the U.S. to continue your studies, please be sure to purchase university or other health insurance coverage before you begin your new program.

There are two methods for continuing your studies in the United States:

### **Method #1: Return Home and Apply for a New Visa**

- ◆ If you are planning to travel back to your home country between the completion of your Fulbright program and the start of your university-sponsored program, you will have to apply to your local U.S. Consulate for a new student visa using your new university-issued DS-2019. This process is not considered a “transfer” of J-1 sponsorship, and you do not have to submit a request for transfer to AMIDEAST.
- ◆ When you apply for the new visa, you will acknowledge your continuing obligation to fulfill your two-year home residency requirement. You will defer this requirement until the conclusion of your university-sponsored academic program.
- ◆ The items that must be submitted with your new visa application include (but are not limited to):
  1. The new DS-2019 form issued by your university;
  2. A copy of your university acceptance letter;
  3. A copy of your university financial affidavit;
  4. A letter from your current or future academic adviser supporting your request.

### **Method #2: Transfer of Sponsorship**

A transfer of J-1 sponsorship is an exceptional authorization to release your SEVIS record and the maintenance of your J-1 immigration status from AMIDEAST and give the responsibility to a university. You may request a transfer to complete the original academic program for which you were awarded your Fulbright grant, or to begin a higher degree program in the same field of study (no second master's degrees are permitted), *and* if your university is willing to issue you a DS-2019 form. Grantees participating in non-degree research are *not* eligible to transfer sponsorship. All Fulbright funding, insurance coverage, and other benefits terminate upon the effective date of the transfer.

- ◆ The date on which the transfer of sponsorship occurs must be on or before the date on which your Fulbright sponsorship ends. For example, if your Fulbright sponsorship for your on-going academic program expires on July 31, 2011, the transfer-in date to your university must begin on or before July 31, 2011. If your Fulbright-funded academic program concludes before the expiration date of your AMIDEAST-issued DS-2019, your university sponsorship must begin immediately after your Fulbright Program terminates, not upon the expiration date of your AMIDEAST-issued DS-2019.

- ◆ If you choose to remain in the U.S. between the completion of your Fulbright program and the start of your university-sponsored program, you must transfer your J-1 sponsorship. On your behalf, AMIDEAST will submit the request for permission from your Fulbright Commission (if applicable) and the United States Department of State to “release” you to university J-1 sponsorship. If your Commission (if applicable) and the United States Department of State approve your release, AMIDEAST will authorize your transfer in SEVIS. Once the transfer is completed in SEVIS, your U.S. university will issue your new DS-2019.
- ◆ The items that must be submitted to AMIDEAST for a transfer request include:
  1. A copy of your university acceptance letter if entering a new program;
  2. A letter from you requesting and justifying the transfer, including:
    - The specific reasons why a transfer of J-1 sponsorship is needed;\*
    - The exact length of the intended transfer period, with starting and end dates;\*
    - Amounts and sources of your financial support during the transfer period;\*
    - Statement of intent to fulfill the two-year home residency requirement;
    - Statement of intent to extend medical coverage for dependents (if applicable);
  3. A letter from your academic advisor, if continuing in your Fulbright program, that addresses the points above marked with an asterisk (\*).
  4. A letter from the Responsible Officer at the International Student Office of the university where you are transferring that includes:
    - Agreement to accept the transfer of your DS-2019 record in SEVIS;
    - Specified date of transfer;
    - Contact information of the Responsible Officer at the sponsoring institution;
    - SEVIS program number;
  5. Proof of adequate funding from the university, from personal funds, or a combination of both, to cover tuition, fees, health insurance, and living expenses.

◆ **Deadlines to request transfer of sponsorship**

If you plan to transfer sponsorship, you **MUST** submit your request **six weeks before the completion date stated on the departure letter.**

AMIDEAST will not process requests received after the deadline. Grantees who do not submit requests by their deadline must return home and apply for a new visa, following the steps for Method #1.

***Important Considerations:***

- If your request for a transfer of sponsorship is denied by your Fulbright Commission (if applicable) and/or the United States Department of State, you will need to apply for a new visa in your home country. AMIDEAST will be required to provide you with a return airline ticket, and you will be expected to leave the U.S. immediately after the conclusion of your Fulbright-sponsored academic program.
- If your request for a transfer of sponsorship is denied by your Fulbright Commission (if applicable) and/or the United States Department of State, you may not apply for Academic Training. AMIDEAST will be required to provide you with a return airline ticket, and you will be expected to leave the U.S. immediately after the conclusion of your Fulbright-sponsored academic program.

***If you have questions about making arrangements to continue your studies in the United States, please contact your AMIDEAST adviser immediately.***