**Important J-2 Visa Information for Spouse & Dependents**

If you are the spouse or a child (under the age of 21) of a J-1 Visa applicant, you may qualify to join the J-1 holder in the U.S. as a J-2 dependent. In order for Seasonal Konnections for Youth US partner sponsor to process your paperwork and issue J-2 Visa sponsorship, we will need the following documents:

* Signed J-2 Dependent Visa Sponsorship Agreement for all dependents over the age of 18
* Copy of your valid passport
* Biographical details, including your relationship to the J-1 applicant, emergency contact, and email address
* Full payment of the dependent fee and dependent insurance fee for each dependent. (750 for first dependent; $300 for each additional.
* Please note that while applying and arriving to the U.S. with the J-1 holder will expedite our approval process, it is possible for dependents to receive sponsorship after a J-1 has already been approved and arrived in the U.S.

**Applying for the Visa**

**Step 1: Make and attend your J-2 Visa appointment.**

* If you are applying for your visa along with the J-1 Visa holder, you may schedule your visa appointments *together*.
* If you are applying for your visa *separate* from the J-1 Visa holder, you will schedule *your own appointment* with the embassy/consulate.
* Appointment and application procedures vary by embassy/consulate, so review the instructions for scheduling an appointment on the website of the embassy/consulate where you plan to apply.

**NOTE:** Wait times are longer at certain times of the year and that you may not be able to get an appointment before your proposed start date. If this happens, please contact US immediately to let us know your arrival will be delayed.

**Step 2: Review and sign your J-2 DS-2019 Form.**

The DS-2019 Form is not a visa application form or a J-2 Visa. Instead, it certifies your eligibility and permits you to apply for a J-2 Visa.

* Read both sides of the DS-2019 form and thoroughly check the information (e.g. your name, dates, etc.). Errors on this form could result in a visa denial. Please inform us immediately if you discover any errors.
* Read the instructions on the back of the form and sign your name at the bottom of page one to accept the terms and conditions outlined on page two. Your signature is an explicit acceptance of the terms of the program.
* It is your responsibility as a participant of this program to abide by the laws of the federal, state, and local governments of the United States, as well as the rules and regulations set forth by your program sponsor.
* Keep your DS-2019 Form in good condition throughout the entire visa process and your stay in the U.S.

**Step 3: Complete your J-2 Visa application and gather the required documents and payment.**

* Carefully follow the visa application instructions on your home country’s embassy/consulate website.
* Complete any required application forms and gather any supplemental materials (e.g. proof of ties to home country, proof of sufficient funds, photographs, etc.). You will also need your DS-2019 and your SEVIS number.
* Your SEVIS number is unique and **will be different than the SEVIS number of the J-1 visa holder**.
* Be sure to make copies of your completed application package before submitting it to the embassy/consulate.

**NOTE:** Though J-1 Visa holders must pay a SEVIS fee, J-2 Visa holders are not required to do so. Our US Sponsor will pay the J-1 Visa holder’s SEVIS fee, and confirmation of payment is sent to the J-1 Visa holder upon visa sponsorship approval. As a J-2 Visa applicant, you will still need to demonstrate proof of payment when applying for your visa by bringing a copy of the SEVIS payment receipt sent by the sponsor. Please remember that other fees may be required; confirm the exact amounts required by your embassy/consulate.

**Step 4: Apply and interview for your J-2 visa at your US Embassy/Consulate.**

Submit the following to the embassy/consulate:

* Your signed DS-2019 Form
* Your passport (valid for at least six months beyond the end date on your DS-2019 Form)
* All J-2 Visa application forms required by your embassy/consulate
* Any supporting materials or information required by your embassy/consulate

**Step 5: Receive your J-2 Visa.**

* If your J-2 Visa is granted, the embassy/consulate will put the visa sticker in your passport and return it along with your DS-2019 form to you.
* If you are denied a visa, please contact Seasonal Konnections for Youth immediately to discuss your options for reapplying.
	+ In many cases you will be able to reapply and will simply need to bring information that you did not have during your first attempt.
	+ Be sure to contact us so that we can help you decide if reapplying is a good idea and amend your program dates, if necessary.

**Important Documents**

The DS-2019 Form

*The DS-2019 Form is a U.S. Government document that permits you to apply for a J-2 Visa at the U.S. Embassy in your home country.*

The DS-2019 Form:

* Serves as proof of sponsorship for your J-2 Visa.
* Identifies your program sponsor.
* Describes the purpose of the program, which is intended for the J-1 holder to intern in the U.S., while you accompany them as a dependent spouse or a child (under 21 years of age).
* States the time period that you are legally permitted to remain in the U.S.

J-2 Visa

* The J-2 Visa is a sticker that is added to your passport by a U.S. Embassy or Consulate in your home country.
* The J-2 Visa allows you to enter the U.S. when you present it with your DS-2019 Form at U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) upon arrival.
* You cannot obtain a J-2 Visa stamp within the U.S.; it must be obtained in your home country. It is generally valid for one, two, or multiple entries into the U.S.
* The J-2 Visa has an expiration date, which may or may not be the same as the date on your DS-2019 Form.

I-94

* The I-94 record is your U.S. Arrival/Departure record. If you are coming to the U.S. by air or sea, your arrival will be recorded electronically by CBP.
* You can access and print your electronic arrival record [I-94 record](http://www.cbp.gov/i94). You will keep this printed copy with other important documents like your DS-2019 Form and J-2 Visa.
* Visitors coming to the U.S. through a land border (most common with Canadian or Mexican participants) will receive a paper I-94 record from the CBP officer upon entering the U.S. If you do receive a paper I-94, you will be required to surrender the I-94 when leaving the U.S. so that your departure can be recorded properly.

Employment Authorization

* J-2 participants are eligible to work in the United States, but they must first apply through the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for work authorization.
* To qualify for employment authorization, you will be asked to prove that the job you are doing is not intended to support the J-1 holder. Instructions are available on the [USCIS website](http://www.uscis.gov/i-765).

Social Security Number

* If your Employment Authorization is approved, you may then apply for a Social Security Number, which is a unique nine-digit number that your U.S. employer will need in order to put you on their payroll.
* Should you enter the U.S. on a future work or study program, your Social Security number would remain valid, so please keep your number and card in a safe place.
* **PROTECT YOUR PERSONAL ID AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION:** Your Social Security number is yours alone. Do not allow others to use your number. Record your number in a safe place in case your card is lost or stolen. Protect both your card and your number to prevent misuse.

**NOTE**: You are not eligible for a Social Security number unless you first apply for employment authorization. If you already have a social security number, you may not work in the U.S. on a J-2 Visa without first applying for employment authorization.

**Insurance Information**

* Your US Sponsor arranges the same insurance coverage to J-1 and J-2 Visa holders. This information will be made available to you before departure.
* J-2 Visa holders must be insured for their ***entire stay*** and pre-purchase insurance for the number of months they will be in the U.S.
* If arriving before the start date indicated on your DS-2019 Form, you must purchase additional insurance to ensure you are covered during this time frame. Your US Sponsor will order your insurance upon arrival in the U.S., and you will receive an insurance card within approximately two-three days of your arrival.
* **Please note that this is not health insurance; it is accident and sickness insurance.** Health insurance is comprehensive and includes preventative care and regular check-ups, as well as care for pre-existing and ongoing conditions. Accident and sickness insurance, though, is simply for accidents and unexpected sickness.
	+ If you require regular, ongoing care, you must ensure that you arrange for a secondary health insurance plan in addition to the accident and sickness insurance provided through Your US Sponsor
	+ Similarly, if you have an ongoing illness for which you require more extensive care, you may want to consider temporarily interrupting your program to seek treatment at home. In addition, if your condition is severe, you may want to consider returning home early in order to receive lower cost treatment in your home country.