

Visa/Immigration Options for LSUHSC International Students¥

Visa Type	F-1 Student	J-1 Exchange Visitor Student
Eligibility Criteria	Must be unconditionally admitted to an LSUHSC educational program. Must provide evidence of a minimum of one year (12 months) of financial support (personal/family funds/school support) prior to I-20 issuance.	Must be unconditionally admitted to an LSUHSC educational program. Must provide evidence of appropriate financial means/support for full duration of program of study prior to DS-2019 issuance.
Intent	Intent to return home following completion of educational program. Non-immigrant intent must be demonstrated at consular interview and upon return from travel.	Intent is to return home at end of program. Non-immigrant intent must be demonstrated. 212(e) waiver/fulfillment needed to convert directly to H1B if EV subject. May not adjust to Permanent Residency if subject.
Duration of Stay	No particular duration, normal degree/program completion requirements apply. Duration includes any approved period of Post Completion OPT and 60 day grace period following program completion. Extensions for completion outside of normal time are available if extension is not necessary due to probation or academic suspension.	No particular duration for degree students, normal degree/program completion time applies. Duration includes any approved period of Academic Training and 30 day grace period following program completion. Extensions for completion outside of normal time are available if extension is not necessary due to probation or academic suspension. Non-degree J-1 students are limited to 24 month duration, including all Practical Training periods. NO extensions available to exceed this limitation.
Academic Requirements	Must maintain full time enrollment and make normal progress toward educational goal. (12 hours undergraduate; 9 hours graduate in Fall/Spring semesters). Any drop below full time enrollment must be requested and approved by the LSUHSC International office prior to dropping below full time hours. Must meet GPA and other requirements as set by degree program.	Must maintain full time enrollment and make normal progress toward educational goal. (12 hours undergraduate; 9 hours graduate in Fall/Spring semesters). Any drop below full time enrollment must be requested and approved by the LSUHSC International office prior to dropping below full time hours. Must meet GPA and other requirements as set by degree program.
Changes to Program/Study	Students are permitted to change their major or minor area of study or education level through SEVIS update to Form I-20.	J-1 Degree Students are permitted to change to a higher education level without Department of State approval or travel/re-entry. Requires SEVIS update to Form DS-2019. J-1 Degree Students are NOT permitted to change to a lower education level or to Non-Degree category through SEVIS update. (Doctorate to Master's; Master's to Bachelor's, etc.) Considered a change in purpose and must be approved by Department of State or accomplished through travel/re-entry with new DS-2019. J-1 Non-Degree students are NOT permitted to change category to Degree student without Department of State approval. Considered a change in purpose and must be approved by Department of State or through travel/re-entry with new DS-2019.
Transfers to another school	Transfer Out of SEVIS record to another SEVP authorized educational institution may be requested and granted during program, including during 60 day grace period following degree completion/graduation date on Form I-20. Transfers to LSUHSC must be coordinated with current school.	Transfer Out of SEVIS record to another SEVP authorized program sponsor may be requested and granted during program, must be requested, approved and completed in SEVIS prior to degree completion/graduation date on Form DS-2019. Transfers to LSUHSC must be coordinated with current program sponsor.

Visa Type	F-1 Student	J-1 Exchange Visitor Student
Employment	<p>On campus employment up to 20 hours per week while in school.</p> <p>Curricular Practical Training and Pre-Completion Optional Practical Training available during educational program for either full or part time/paid or unpaid training that is required by degree program/for course credit. Must be approved in advance by LSUHSC International Office. May be paid or unpaid.</p> <p>Off campus employment due to Economic Hardship, or with an International Organization may be approved by USCIS following DSO recommendation in SEVIS.</p> <p>Off campus employment pursuant to Special Student Relief may be approved by DSO. SEVIS record notation required prior to beginning employment.</p> <p>12 months of Post Completion Optional Practical Training available following degree/coursework completion. (Not available if have used 12 months of Full Time CPT) Must be directly related to degree and approved by USCIS. (Form I-765;\$380 fee) May be full or part time. May be paid or unpaid.</p> <p>Post Completion OPT STEM extensions for degrees in STEM listing (Cannot be used for employment at LSUHSC). (Form I-765;\$380 fee). Must be paid to meet requirements.</p>	<p>Employment pursuant to a Scholarship, Assistantship or Fellowship for up to 20 hours per week may take place either on or off campus, and must be approved <i>in writing</i> by ISO or program sponsor before commencing duties.</p> <p>On campus employment for up to 20 hours per week while in school must be approved <i>in writing</i> by program sponsor prior to commencing duties. Re-authorization required every 12 months.</p> <p>Off campus employment due to Economic Hardship for up to 20 hours per week may be approved <i>in writing</i> by program sponsor prior to commencing duties.</p> <p>18-36 months of Academic Training available during/following degree completion. Must be directly related to area of study/degree and authorized by program sponsor <i>in advance</i> of beginning training. May be full or part time. May be paid or unpaid.</p>
Visa Type	F-1 Student	J-1 Exchange Visitor Student
Dependents	Legal spouses and children under 21 eligible. F-2 dependents may not work or apply for work authorization. Child dependents in grades K-12 may (required in Louisiana if child under age 18) attend school.	Legal spouses and children under 21 eligible. J-2 dependents may request full time, open market work authorization from USCIS. Must apply for work authorization and receive approval before commencing employment. (Form I-765; \$410 fee) J-2 dependents may attend school either full or part time, including pursuit of a University degree.
Changing to another status	No restrictions.	212(e) Home Residency Requirement -depending on funding source and skills list of home country <u>may</u> require EV and any dependents to return to home country for 2 years following J program. 212E makes subject EV (and dependents) ineligible for a change to H1B or adjustment to Permanent Resident status unless fulfilled or waiver obtained.
Processing Time	For consular processing and entry/re-entry through travel, generally at least 30 days following visa interview (if entry visa required). Visa wait times vary. For Change of Status in U.S., generally, 90-180 days from when USCIS receives the application. No Premium Processing is available.	For consular processing and entry/re-entry through travel, generally at least 30 days following visa interview (if entry visa required). Visa wait times vary. For Change of Status in U.S., generally, 90-180 days from when USCIS receives the application. No Premium Processing is available.
Required Fees	Student pays SEVIS fee (\$350) and entry visa fee (\$160) at consulate if abroad. Exchange visitor completes I-539 and pays application fee (\$370+\$85) if changing status in U.S. Not eligible for In-State tuition rates, must pay non-resident LSUHSC tuition and fees.	Exchange visitor pays SEVIS fee (\$220) and entry visa fee (\$160) at consulate if abroad. Exchange visitor completes I-539 and pays application fee (\$370+\$85) if changing status in U.S. Not eligible for In-State tuition rates, must pay non-resident LSUHSC tuition and fees.

✗Other statuses/visas do permit full or part time study, these are only the types available for sponsorship by LSUHSC.

Click [here](#) for more information on studying in the U.S.