Temporary Absence for Exchange Visitor
Research Scholars and Professors

What is a Temporary Absence?

A Temporary Absence is a period of time outside the United States of more than 30 days with an intent to return to complete an original program objective while keeping the current SEVIS immigration record ACTIVE during the absence.

General Guidelines for a Temporary Absence:

If your stay abroad is MORE than 30 days and you intend to return to continue your exchange visitor (EV) program objective, you must request and receive authorization for a Temporary Absence or your SEVIS immigration record will become INVALID and your J-1 program will “complete”. A completed program will subject EV’s in the Research Scholar and Professor category to a 24-month bar on repeat participation in those categories. For a temporary absence of 30 days or less, authorization for a temporary absence is not necessary, but you must have a valid travel signature in order to re-enter the U.S. Please review the travel survey found at www.isss.utah.edu found under Policies and Forms for more information.

Please note, if there is a pending Transfer of your SEVIS immigration record or a request for a change of status or reinstatement, you must contact a J-1 Exchange Visitor advisor to see if you are eligible of the Temporary Absence benefit.

You Are Eligible for a Temporary Absence, If During the Absence:

1. You will continue to pursue your original program goals and objectives.
2. The research or collaboration will be ongoing and continue to benefit the University.
3. You will maintain the required health insurance for yourself and your dependents that meets the U.S. Department of State requirements for the duration of your EV program, even when abroad. This requirement cannot be waived.
4. You report any changes to your out of country site of activity and return date to ISSS.
5. You will remain under the supervision of your supervisor or PI at the University of Utah.

How to Apply for a Temporary Absence?

To request permission for a Temporary Absence, please submit a temporary absence e-form by selecting the iStart link found at www.isss.utah.edu and following the iStart instruction guide located under Policies and Forms.

Please Be Prepared to Submit the Following Information on the E-form:

- Begin and end date of your temporary absence.
- Address of your site of activity (your physical location) outside of the U.S.
- Health insurance information and confirmation of continued coverage for you and your dependents during your temporary absence.
- Contact information of your supervisor or PI.