

## DS-2019 Extension

### What is a DS-2019 Extension?

An extension is an action by a Sponsor, such as the University of Utah, that allows for more time to complete an Exchange Visitor's (EV)'s **original program goals and objectives**. The length of the extension is based on a **1) a recommendation** from the host department, **2) proof of funding**, and **3) the maximum duration** allowed by the current J-1 visa category. The EV must initiate a request for an extension of their program through UAtlas, which must be done **before** the program end date as listed on the current DS-2019.

### Important Information to Know about a DS-2019 Extension:

- An extension of a DS-2019 is **not an extension of a visa**. Keep in mind that although a valid visa is not required to legally **remain in the U.S.**, it is required to **enter or re-enter** the U.S. **after a departure**. If your visa has expired and you plan to depart and then re-enter the U.S., you must obtain a valid visa. If your visa is expired, you can only apply for a new visa at a US Embassy abroad, preferably in your country of citizenship or legal permanent residence (LPR).
- **Maximum Program Length** - Extensions can be requested for any uninterrupted period of time up to the visa category maximum duration, as seen below.

Category	Duration
Short Term Scholar	6 Months
Student Intern	1 Year
Specialist	1 Year
Research Scholar	5 Years
Professor	5 Years

- **Insurance Requirements** - Federal Regulations require that all EVs in J-1 visa status, and their J-2 dependents, maintain health insurance for the **duration of their EV Program**. If your host department at the University of Utah does not offer an opportunity to participate in the University's health insurance plan, it is your responsibility to purchase and/or provide proof of health insurance for the duration of your program. The policy must meet the minimum requirements set by the Department of State, **for you** and for all of **your dependents**. If you need additional information on health insurance, please e-mail our [J-1 Scholar Team](#) or make an appointment with a J-1 Scholar Advisor. **These minimum requirements must be met:**
  - \$100,000 per sickness/illness
  - \$100,000 per accident/injury
  - \$50,000 for medical evacuation
  - \$25,000 for repatriation
  - Maximum \$500 deductible
- Once an extension is approved, a **new DS-2019** is issued reflecting the **new program end date**.

## How to Apply for a DS-2019 Extension:

Extensions are requested by submitting a **DS-2019 Extension E-form** through **UAtlas**. Click [here](#) for a link to **UAtlas**. When submitting the e-form, please be prepared to submit the following information:

- **Extension Recommendation Letter**

The recommendation letter must be printed on official University letterhead, signed by the EV's PI or supervisor, and include the following:

- The new research/teaching program **end date**
- **Brief** statement related to the EV's progress toward their program objective, and that the extension is for the purpose to allow a continuation of their research objectives.
- Confirmation of funding and provide specific \$ amount (if funded by the University).
- Confirmation of health insurance coverage (if health insurance is part of the University of Utah benefit package).

- **Proof of funding**

- If funded by the University, the host academic department can confirm the funding in the extension recommendation letter (see above).
- If not funded by the University, proof must be provided, such as government funding, scholarships, grants, or personal funds.
  - Proof of minimum funding in the amount of **\$2,400 per month for each EV and \$500 per month for each dependent** is required for the entire duration of the extension, as shown on the DS-2019. This is not a salary requirement.

- Updated **health insurance information** to confirm an EV has health insurance as required by the U.S. Department of State and the EV Program.

- **Contact Information** of the host supervisor, primary investigator (PI), or department chair. This information can be provided on the e-form or the extension recommendation letter.

- If subject to the **212(e) home residency requirement**, there must be a confirmation in the E-form whether or not one has received or requested a waiver of that requirement.

**Note:** If you have received a **Favorable Waiver Recommendation** letter from the Department of State or awarded a 212(e) waiver from USCIS, you are no longer eligible for an extension of your program, even if you have not yet met the maximum duration of your J-1 category. If you have questions about 212(e), please review our [212\(e\) Policy Guide](#) or make an appointment with a J-1 Scholar Advisor for additional information.

**Disclaimer:** International Student & Scholar Services provides support and information related to U.S. immigration laws and regulations related to F and J status. ISSS staff are not attorneys and any information provided by us should not be construed as legal advice. Individuals are welcome to consult a qualified immigration attorney for specific legal advice, particularly in complicated cases. For a list of local Utah attorneys please visit our website [here](#).