

EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM (J-1 VISA) Summer Work & Travel



**United States Consulate General
Chiang Mai, Thailand**

EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM

The purpose is to foster mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through educational and cultural exchanges.



EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM

After exchanges, visitors return to their home country to share their exchange experiences with people in their home country.



EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM

Two key programs:

- 1. Academic and Government Programs Division:** Government Visitor, International Visitor, Professor and Research Scholar, Short-Term Scholar, Specialist, Student, and College/University
- 2. Private Sector Programs Division:** Alien Physician, Au Pair and EduCare, Camp Counselor, Intern, Student/Secondary School, Summer Work/Travel, Teacher, Trainee and Flight Training.

How can I participate in the Exchange Program?

You need to be sponsored by one of the State Department's designated sponsors authorized to conduct exchange visitor programs in the United States.



The list of the designated sponsors is on website at:
<http://eca.state.gov/jexchanges/index.cfm>

Summer Work & Travel

*** 56 ORGANIZATIONS DESIGNATED.**

*** The Top Ten Top Countries of SWT Participants:** Russia, Brazil, Turkey, Ukraine, THAILAND, Ireland, Bulgaria, Peru, Moldova, Poland.

SWT Program Purpose

To provide bona fide foreign post-secondary students an opportunity to become directly involved in the daily life of the people of the United States through travel and temporary work for a period up to four months during their summer vacation.



Student Expectations

- Learn and share new cultures with other students
- Opportunity to practice English language, both listening and speaking skills in real situations
- Opportunity for students to develop the ability to live on their own
- Opportunity to travel around the U.S.



SWT Program Period

- * Not exceed 4 months
- * Thai Summer(early March - early July)

Program participants will not be admitted to the U.S.A. until a date 30 days or less prior to the beginning of your program start date (is stated on the DS-2019).

30-day Grace Period

Provides all J-1 program participants a 30-day travel status period following the completion of their program. This period is NOT included in the program dates entered on the Form DS-2019.



Qualification Requirement

- * Full-time student status in a bachelor's or master's degree program
- * Recommend minimum GPA 2.00
- * English proficiency
- * Good attitude in working with others
- * Flexibility in working and living with others
- * Students will work in non-skilled service positions



Theme Parks



Fast food & Restaurants



Hotels & Resorts



Convenience Stores



Sponsor Responsibility

Must ensure that participants entering the United States have sufficient financial resources to support themselves.



Must provide participants with employment and secure lodging in the United States before they depart their home countries.



Important Awareness

Sponsors are to ensure that participants receive the same pay and benefits as received by their American counterparts in the same or similar positions.

Program regulations permit participants to repeat the program more than once. However, sponsors are required to limit the number of repeating participants to no more than 10 percent of the number of their previous year's participants.

Department regulations prohibit the placement of program participants as domestic help in U.S. households or in positions requiring them to invest their own money for inventory, such as door-to-door sales.

Inquiries and Concerns



- ✚ Local recruiters oversold the program
- ✚ Economic conditions may have meant that jobs were hard to come by and the jobs available might not have been as nice or as lucrative as anticipated.
- ✚ Participants placed in unsafe neighborhood
- ✚ Sponsors not reacting in a timely manner to the complaints or difficulties
- ✚ Sponsors not answering their phone calls
- ✚ Paid for direct placement and have no job and running out of money
- ✚ Work hours reduced significantly
- ✚ Paying more than what was quoted for housing.
- ✚ Adequate housing not provided
- ✚ Overcrowded housing
- ✚ Transportation Costly or not provided
- ✚ Contract not clear
- ✚ Employer pays sponsor and sponsor takes out a portion of that money before paying participant.



Information you should have before you leave...

- 1. The name and location of the employer.**
- 2. Any contractual obligations related to acceptance of paid employment in the United States. (This should include such information as the dates of employment, the number of hours of work weekly, over time requirement/pay, hourly salary, work hours, whether housing is included by the employer, and at what cost, etc.)**



Information you should have before you leave...

**Also, you should receive the following information before
departure:**

- 1. The purpose of the Exchange Visitor Program**
- 2. Home-country physical presence requirement**
- 3. Travel and entry into the United States**
- 4. Housing**
- 5. Fees payable to the sponsor**
- 6. Other costs that the exchange visitor will likely incur (e.g.,
living expenses) while in the United States**
- 7. Health Care and insurance**
- 8. Other information that will assist exchange visitors to
prepare for their stay in the United States**

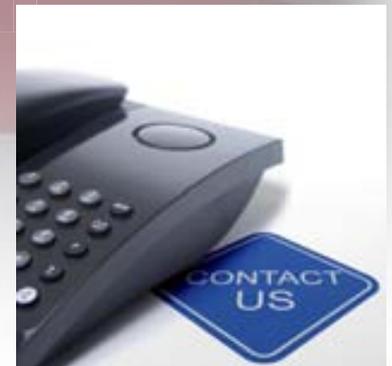
Handling Problems As They Emerge

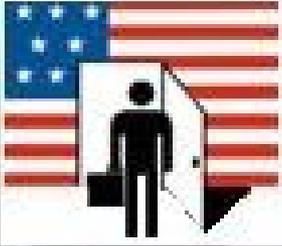


Your first point of contact should be the U.S. sponsor for any problems your encounter.



All U.S. sponsors should have 24-hour toll-free hotlines available to address concerns from participants or their families.

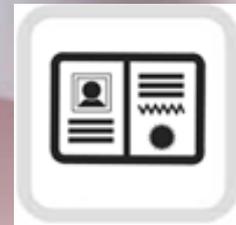




Role of Consular Section

To screen applicants to explain in some detail their plans for the program, and then assessing whether or not those plans seem realistic given both the job in question and the applicant's economic situation at home.

English language ability also can help determine whether or not an applicant is qualified for the J-1 SWT visa.

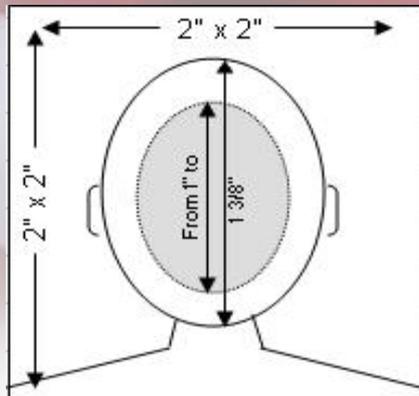


Period of Time for Summer Work & Travel Program



Procedures for Applying Exchange Visitor Program (J-1) Visa

- 1 Complete the online application form (DS-160) with a photo of 2 x 2 inches (white background).
- 2 Buy PIN for schedule your appointment and pay the visa fee 4,620 Baht at Post Office with “Pay at Post”
- 3 Purchase Courier Envelope at MaePing Post Office



On the day of your appointment,
please arrive at the Consulate
no later than 30 minutes
before your interview.

What to Bring When Applying for a Visa

1. Online Application Forms (DS-160)
2. Passport with 6 months valid beyond the visa application date.
3. DS-2019 Form* (issued by the program or school in the U.S.)
4. Receipt of SEVIS fee * and Receipt of Visa fee.
5. Evidence of Prior Education
6. Evidence to show ties to Thailand
 - Family ties
 - Economic ties
 - Social ties



SEVIS Fee

The fee for SWT Program is \$35 and valid for 1 year from the payment date.

Payment Method

1. Credit cards at the website: <http://www.fmjfee.com>
2. Western Union Bank (plus an additional charge)
3. Pay by third person e.g. school or agency
4. Group Payment of Bulk Payment
5. Bank Draft or International Money Order

Please pay the fee at least 3 days prior to the date of the visa interview.

Useful Websites

<http://chiangmai.usconsulate.gov/visas.html>

<http://thai.bangkok.usembassy.gov/visas.html>

<http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/education.html>

<http://thailand.us-visaservices.com>

<http://evisaforms.state.gov>

www.ice.gov/sevis/students/index.htm

www.fmjfee.com

www.exchanges.state.gov

www.travel.state.gov/visa/visa_1750.html