

WELCOME!

SUMMER WORK & TRAVEL IN THE USA

United States Consulate General, Chiang Mai
August 31, 2012



Study in The United States



* **F-1** the most common student visa
For long-term undergraduate or graduate study.

* **J-1** for exchange programs
Work and Travel, Au Pair, Company/Medical
Internship, or Academic Research.

* **M-1** vocational training
Usually short-term (less than 1 year).

Exchange Visitor Program

Two key programs:

1. Academic and Government Programs Division:

Government Visitor, International Visitor, Professor and Research Scholar, Short-term Scholar, Specialist, College/University students.

2. Private Sector Programs Division:

Alien Physician, Au Pair and EduCare, Camp Counselor, Intern, Student (Secondary School), **Summer Work and Travel**, Teacher, Trainee and Flight Training.



What is Summer Work and Travel program?

Exchange Visitor Program (J-1 visa)

The Summer Work Travel program provides foreign students with an opportunity to live and work in the United States during their summer vacation from college/university, and to gain exposure to the way of life and the people of the United States.

Visitors return to their home countries to share their exchange experiences in the United States.



Summer Work Travel Students

Must:

- Have proficiency in English to successfully interact in an English-speaking environment.
- Be enrolled in and actively pursuing a post-secondary degree or other full-time course of study at an accredited post-secondary educational institution outside the United States.



Summer Work Travel Students

Must:

- Have successfully completed at least one academic semester or equivalent of post-secondary academic study (recommended minimum GPA 2.00).
- Be flexible in working and living with others.
- Have a good attitude towards working in non-skilled service positions.





How Do I Apply?

- You must use a U.S. Department of State designated sponsor.
- The designated sponsor will place you with an employer.
- Local agencies will recruit students and coordinate with designated sponsor.
- The local agency will assist you with the visa application and interview.





Employer

Designated
Sponsor

Ex.

- American Exchange Organization
- Alliance Abroad Group

Applicant
(Student)

Local
Agency

Agency A , Agency B, Agency C etc.



So...When Is It?

Thai **SWT** season = March - July

Ensure you work with your agency to schedule an interview around your final exams!

Time to travel:

- Can enter the U.S. up to 30 days before program starts.
- Can leave up to 30 days after program ends.

BUT:

- These dates are the maximum ranges, and not a reason to miss school at home.
- Your academic studies here is most important!



Jobs, Jobs, Jobs...

Non-skilled service positions at:

- ✓ Fast Food & Other Restaurants
- ✓ Theme Parks, Retail Work
- ✓ Hotels & Resorts
- ✓ Convenience Stores



Work **NOT** Allowed...

- ✘ Domestic help in private homes (e.g. child care, elder care, gardener, chauffeur) or pedicabs.
- ✘ Driving vehicles or vessels that carry passengers for hire or for which you need a special driver's license.
- ✘ Medical care that involves patient contact.
- ✘ Selling that requires you to purchase inventory and then sell in market or go door-to-door.
- ✘ Adult entertainment industry or any other work that would bring a bad reputation to the program.

! Sponsor Responsibilities !

- Give you pre-arrival information before you leave Thailand and an orientation when you arrive in the U.S.
- Find you employment and inform you about your contractual obligations to the employer.
- Find you a safe and secure place to live.



! Sponsor Responsibilities !

- Inform you about minimum wage requirements and your rights as a worker.
- Ensure that you have appropriate medical insurance and help you find an appropriate insurance plan.
- Give you their 24/7 hotline information for emergencies.
- Contact you every month to check on your well-being.



! Employer Responsibilities !

- Provide you the number of hours of paid employment per week as promised in the job offer to the designated sponsor.
- Pay you overtime in accordance with applicable state or federal law.
- Ensure appropriate taxes are applied in accordance with state and federal law.



! No Secrets, Please !

- Notify your designated sponsor when :
 - you begin work
 - change jobs
 - you are not meeting the job requirements
 - you leave before the scheduled end of your program
- Contact your designated sponsor immediately if there is an emergency or any situation that affects your health or welfare.



Prevent Problems Before They Happen: “Know Before You Go”

What ? Who ?
How ? Where?



Do your homework! Use the internet, work with sponsor, and talk to previous participants.



What Happens If I Have A Problem in the U.S.?

- Every designated sponsor is required to have a 24/7 hotline to handle problems from (SWT) participants.

- Be sure you have that number!



- Make sure your family here has that number, so they can contact you in an emergency.

Role of the Consulate

- Coordinate interview schedules with local agencies.
- Conduct visa interview with **SWT** participants:
 - Assess if plans are realistic in light of student's personal situation
 - Check English language ability
- Note: You work directly with local agencies—you are paying them! Agencies are the primary contact with **SWT** participants to obtain a visa.



Useful Email and Websites:

Official Website:

<http://chaingmai.usconsulate.gov>

J1 visa

<http://j1visa.state.gov/programs/summer-work-travel/>

Designated Sponsor Organizations

<http://j1visa.state.gov/participants/how-to-apply/sponsor-search/?program=Summer%20Work%20Travel>

Email: chnswt2013@state.gov

Be our friends.
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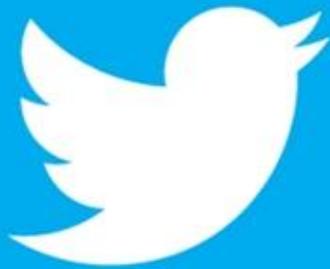
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- U.S.-northern Thai relations
- U.S. foreign policies
- News on scholarships
- Education in the U.S.
- Grants/ exchange programs
- Cultural events,
- Visa tips, and much, much more!

อัพเดททุกข้อมูลข่าวสารก่อนใคร:
ความเคลื่อนไหวการต่างประเทศสหรัฐในเชียงใหม่/
ภาคเหนือของไทย, ข้อมูลทุน-โครงการแลกเปลี่ยน,
โครงการความร่วมมือ, บทความล่าสุด, เรียนต่อ
สหรัฐฯ , ข้อมูลวีซ่า ฯลฯ ที่นี้ที่เดียวค่ะ!



US Cons Chiang Mai

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The U.S. Consulate General in Chiang Mai covers fifteen provinces in northern Thailand.

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Questions?



Official Website: <http://chaingmai.usconsulate.gov>