

# INFORMATION FOR SUMMER WORK TRAVEL PARTICIPANTS

**Congratulations on your acceptance as an Exchange Visitor Program participant in a Summer Work Travel program. This program is a cultural exchange, and your eligibility for program participation is based on your status as a foreign college/university student. It is therefore very important that the program does not interfere with your studies and that you come back in time for your classes. Please take a moment to read the following information to ensure that you are familiar with certain requirements of the program.**

## **What do the program start and end dates on my DS-2019 mean?**

The program start and end dates indicate when you may begin work and when you must stop working. You may begin working at any point on or after the program start date, but must end your work by the end date of the program. If you work beyond the program date, you may not be able to participate in the program in future years.

## **How long before the program start date may I enter the United States?**

You may enter the United States up to 30 days in advance of your program start date, but may not begin working until the program start date. Please remember that participation in the program cannot prevent you from attending any scheduled classes or taking exams at your university. If you miss any classes due to participation in the program, you will greatly jeopardize your chances of participating in the program in future years.

## **How long after the program end date may I stay in the United States?**

You have 30 days following the end date of your program to travel and/or to arrange for your return home. You are not permitted to work during these 30 days, and if you leave the United States during this grace period, you will not be permitted back in on your J-1 visa because you will no longer be in J status. Please keep in mind that it is **your** responsibility to return home in time for the start of your scheduled classes, no matter what your program end date is.

## **Can I switch jobs once I am in the United States?**

Please check with your sponsoring agency before making any changes in your employment. If you change employment without the permission of your sponsoring agency, your status in the program may be terminated. If your program is terminated, you must leave the United States **immediately**.

**Can I work more than one job in the United States?**

The Exchange Visitor Program regulations do not address this issue. However, you should check with your sponsor before accepting additional employment.

**What if I have a complaint about the sponsoring agency or my employer in the United States?**

You may register complaints with the Department of State at [jvisas@state.gov](mailto:jvisas@state.gov); fax (202) 203-5087 and send a copy to the U.S. Embassy in Kazakhstan at [USAKZ@state.gov](mailto:USAKZ@state.gov). However, your U.S. sponsoring organization has primary responsibility for your program. If you have a complaint about your employer, you should first contact your sponsor for assistance. Contact information for your sponsor can be found in Box #2 of your Form DS-2019.

**What if I have a difficult time finding a job placement once I arrive in the United States, or have concerns about the work conditions?**

If you have questions or are experiencing difficulty in finding employment, or have concerns about the work conditions, you should first contact your sponsor for assistance. You also may contact the Department of State ([jvisas@state.gov](mailto:jvisas@state.gov) or fax (202) 203-5087.) You may also wish to contact your country's nearest Embassy or Consulate.