

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR J 2 DEPENDENT APPLICANTS

**Form DS-2019 must be used to apply for J-2 status using one of the options below.**

### APPLICATION FOR J 2 STATUS FROM OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES

APPLICATION AT A U.S. CONSULATE FOR J-2 STATUS	CANADIAN CITIZENS PROCESSING FOR J-2 STATUS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schedule an appointment at: <a href="https://ceac.state.gov/genniv">https://ceac.state.gov/genniv</a></li> <li>• Provide a consular official with the following documentation:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Form DS-2019 issued by ECFMG</li> <li>2. Passport, valid for at least six months past the end date on Form DS-2019</li> <li>3. Marriage certificate (spouse) or birth certificate (child)</li> </ol> </li> <li>• The J-2 dependent can either accompany the J-1 visa holder when he/she enters the United States, or enter separately at a later date.</li> <li>• Each dependent must have his/her own Form DS-2019 and a J-2 visa stamp in his/her passport to enter the United States in valid J-2 status.</li> </ul>	<p>Canadian citizens are not required to have a visa stamp issued by a U.S. Consulate in their passports. However, Canadian citizens applying for J-2 visa status for the first time must present the following at a U.S. port of entry:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Form DS-2019 issued by ECFMG</li> <li>2. Passport, valid for at least six months past the end date on Form DS-2019</li> <li>3. Marriage certificate (spouse) or birth certificate (child)</li> </ol> <p>If approved for J-2 status, Form I-94 will be issued by a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer.</p>

### APPLICATION FOR J 2 STATUS FROM WITHIN THE UNITED STATES

*(Change of status through U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services)*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• File for a change of status (CoS) through U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Form I-539 <i>Request to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Visa Status</i></li> <li>○ See <a href="https://www.uscis.gov/i-539">https://www.uscis.gov/i-539</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Departure from the United States while a CoS is pending voids the application.</li> <li>• If approved, Form I-797 confirming J-2 status will be issued.</li> <li>• If approved, any subsequent travel outside of the United States will require consular processing and issuance of a J-2 visa (unless J-2 is a Canadian citizen).</li> </ul>
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### IMPORTANT REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO J 2 DEPENDENTS

- If the J-1 is subject to the two-year home physical presence requirement, the J-2 is also subject.
- J-1 physicians are required to secure and maintain comprehensive health insurance for themselves and all J-2 dependents ([see http://www.ecfmq.org/evsp/mandatory-medical-insurance.html](http://www.ecfmq.org/evsp/mandatory-medical-insurance.html)).
- J-1 physicians are required to immediately notify ECFMG if a sponsored J-2 dependent no longer needs J-2 sponsorship for any reason.
- J-2 dependents must obtain an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) from the USCIS prior to undertaking any employment. Money earned by a J-2 cannot be used to support the principal J-1 visa holder.
- A J-2 dependent may remain in the United States as long as the principal J-1 visa holder maintains valid J-1 status.