

J-2 Employment Authorization Application Process

Purpose of J-2 work authorization: J-2 dependents may apply to USCIS for employment authorization provided that the income from such employment will not be used for the support of the J-1 principle participant. If permission for employment is granted, it is valid for employment in any field without limitation as to full or part time. The period of authorized employment is indicated on the EAD card. If the J-2 dependent wishes to extend his/her work permission, the J-2 must apply for employment authorization again after an extension of stay has been obtained from the J-1 program sponsor on behalf of the J-1 participant (if necessary). If the current EAD expires while the renewal EAD is pending, the J-2 must wait until the new EAD is in hand and the EAD start date has arrived to return to work.

Taxes and Social Security: J-2 dependents who work in the U.S are subject to Social Security Taxes, Federal Income Taxes, and State Income Taxes. See IRS publication 519, "United States Tax Guide for Aliens." Dependents can apply for a Social Security Card after obtaining an Employment Authorization Document.

Application Checklist:

1. Form I-765: <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/forms/i-765.pdf>.¹
**Instructions for completing the I-765 are available at <https://www.uscis.gov/i-765>*
**Item 27 on page 3 should read (c) (5) () and don't forget to sign and date page 4*
2. Form G-1445: <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/g-1145.pdf>.
3. Written statement with any applicable supporting evidence (such as proof of J-1's funding information) showing that the employment is not necessary to support the J-1 but is for other purposes. A sample letter is on page 2.
4. Personal Check or Money Order² for \$410.00 made payable to US Department of Homeland Security.³
5. Photocopy of J-1's DS-2019, passport identification page, visa and I-94 record⁴
6. Photocopy of J-2's DS-2019, passport identification page, visa and I-94 record
7. For renewal applications, include a copy of the previous EAD(s)
8. Two (2) identical color photographs. Follow the specifications in the I-765 instructions or on this web site: <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/general/photos.html>

If you live in NC, mail⁵ your application package to the USCIS Dallas Lockbox (based on mail carrier you use):

For U.S. Postal Service (USPS) Deliveries:

USCIS
PO Box 660867
Dallas, TX 75266

For Express mail & courier service deliveries (FedEx, UPS, or DHL):

USCIS
Attn: NFB AOS
2501 S. State Hwy. 121 Business
Suite 400
Lewisville, TX 75067

You will receive a receipt notice⁶ with your case number in the mail from USCIS within approximately 3 weeks. If approved, you will receive your Employment Authorization Document (EAD) in 3 to 5 months.

¹ Check USCIS's [website](#) for the I-765 to make sure you are using the correct edition and the correct fee amount for the date your application will be postmarked.

² A money order can be obtained from bank or post office

³ Check USCIS's [website](#) for the I-765 to make sure you are using the correct edition and the correct fee amount for the date your application will be postmarked.

⁴ The I-94 can be downloaded from <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/>

⁵ OIS recommends using a courier service such as FedEx, UPS, or DHL in order to ensure safe delivery of your application

⁶ You can use your receipt number to check your case status at <https://egov.uscis.gov/casestatus/landing.do>

Please confirm the application fee, mailing address and procedures for any possible changes with USCIS prior to mailing your application: <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>.

Instructions for sample letter: The below letter is just a sample. You are free to change it to fit your own circumstances but at a minimum it should include basic information such as your spouse's J-1 category, department, and funding source as well as a statement that any earnings you make from your J-2 work authorization won't be used to support the J-1.

SAMPLE LETTER

TO: USCIS

Dallas Lockbox

[insert USCIS address where you will mail your application according to the mailing instructions on page 1]

[DATE]

Subject: Request for J-2 Employment Authorization

I am a J-2 visa holder requesting employment authorization. Permission to work will enable me to gain useful experiences from cultural and recreational activities here in the United States.

My spouse who is the principle J-1 holder is a **[insert J-1 category such as student/research scholar/etc.]** at North Carolina State University, department of **[insert your spouse's department name here]**. My spouse and our family's expenses are fully covered by **[indicate name of funding source here]**. Thus earnings from my employment will not be used to support my spouse or our family.

I would like to request employment until the end date of my DS-2019 on **[insert your actual DS-2019 end date here]**, under federal regulations 8 CFR 274a.12(a) and (c).

Thank you for your consideration of this request of employment.

Sincerely,

[sign your name here]

[insert your printed name here]