

F-1/ J-1 Comparison

F-1 status is the most common type of status used to study in the United States. F-1 status is for full-time academic and language students who are pursuing a degree or certificate in the U.S. If you decide to pursue F-1 status, you will need to apply for admission and get an I-20 Certificate of eligibility

The J-1 student category is an alternate immigration option for students who are participating in a formal university exchange program for a short period of time, usually a semester or academic year.

Basic Differences Between F-1 and J-1 Student Visas

	F-1 Visa	J-1 Visa
Source of Funding	Supported by personal/family funds, sponsorship funds, or a combination of both	Supported by personal/family funds, sponsorship funds, or a combination of both
Proof of Funding	Must show financial support for the first year of the program when requesting the initial I-20 certificate of eligibility.	Must show financial support for the entire length of the program when requesting the initial document DS-2019
Document type	I-20	DS-2019
Off-Campus Employment	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Two authorization options:</u></p> <p><i>Curricular Practical Training (CPT)</i> for off-campus employment during studies. This work authorization is approved one semester at a time.</p> <p><i>Optional Practical Training (OPT)</i> for off-campus employment, usually after the completion of studies. This is a 12-month work authorization. Students in STEM fields may be authorized for an additional 24 months.</p> <p>Both CPT and OPT are only available to students who have completed one academic year of full-time enrollment in the U.S.</p> <p>For complete details, please visit: https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/sevis-help-hub/student-records/fm-student-employment/f-1-curricular-practical-training-cpt</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Two authorization options:</u></p> <p><i>Student Employment</i> limits students to twenty (20) hours per week, except during school breaks and annual vacation.</p> <p><i>Academic Training (AT)</i> for working off campus during studies or after the completion of studies. This work authorization is for up to 18 months or the length of study in the program, whichever is shorter. The length of approved AT is equal to the length of time spent studying in the U.S.</p> <p>For complete details, please visit: https://j1visa.state.gov/opportunity-for-academic-training-extensions-for-j-1-college-and-university-students-in-stem-fields/</p>

Dependents	Dependents with F-2 status may study part-time and are not eligible for employment.	Dependents in J-2 status may study full-time and may apply for employment authorization.
Application Process	https://westfield.ma.edu/documents/applying-fl-visapdf	https://westfield.ma.edu/documents/obtaining-j1-visapdf
For More Information	https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/student-visa.html	https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/exchange.html