HOSTING VISITING SCHOLARS: Easier Than You Think

presented by
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Today’s Objectives

- Purpose of the Exchange Visitor Program
- Host responsibilities
- Sponsor responsibilities
- Benefits of hosting
- Eligible categories
- Brief overview of process
- Questions
Exchange Visitor’s Program

- Administered by the US Dept. of State under the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 *(Fulbright-Hays Act)*
- The overall purpose of the program is to increase mutual understanding between people of the US and people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange
- Expectation from the participation is that on completion of the program, the visitor will return to their home country to share their (positive) experiences
- The US Dept. of State designates organizations (i.e. academic institutions, government agencies, etc.) as sponsors to administer the exchange visitor programs
Exchange Visitor’s Program

- Different categories within exchange visitor status
  - Tied to purpose in United States
  - Research Scholar; non-degree student; Visiting Professor, etc.

- Exchange visitors &/dependents enter United States: J-1 & J-2 visas
Responsibilities of the Host

- Make sure the visitor is a good fit for your research program
- Create/Propose a research plan for your visitor
  - How will you monitor the progress of their research?
  - Encourage opportunities for the visitor to present to your group/department on a weekly/bi-weekly/monthly basis
  - If possible, require visitor to attend departmental meetings
- Verify that visitor has completed all required trainings and confidentiality agreements
  - Baseline Safety Training
  - Title IX Training
  - Laboratory-specific Training
  - Optional Community of Respect Training
Responsibilities of the Host

- Assist your visitor with finding housing and getting acclimated to their new community
- **Must ALWAYS be apprised of visitor’s location in United States**
  - Faculty and NDSU both jointly liable for visitor’s whereabouts
  - The US State Dept. grants all J-1 visa-holders a 30-day pre-arrival before their program begins AND a post 30-day grace period at the end of their exchange program
    - **Early arrivals**… If visitor plans to arrive early and visit another state, we must receive advanced notice or their exchange program could be cancelled
- Medical insurance is required from entry to exit
  - Unless visitor is in a benefitted position, (s)he must use our int’l student/scholar plan – no exceptions
Responsibilities of the Host

• Introduce visitor to cultural events on campus and within the community

“… J-1 Visa participants … [should] best **take advantage of the cultural opportunities offered** by their local host communities in the U.S. Similarly, we **encourage U.S. host families and employers to promote cultural learning by introducing international visitors to uniquely American values, customs, history and activities** while simultaneously learning about the countries and cultures of visiting participants. Strengthening these relationships **makes achieving the goals of mutual cultural exchange possible** and allows us to build a global community—one person at a time.”

(InterExchange.org/Fulbright-Hays-Act)
Responsibilities of the Sponsor

• Make sure the visitor is eligible and qualified for the program
  • Credentials
    • Adequate financial resources for themselves and dependents
    • Sufficient English proficiency
    • Enrollment in medical insurance
• Ensure that the activity in which the visitor is engaged is consistent with their assigned category and activity listed on their immigration document (Form DS-2019)
  • 10 J-1 categories used at NDSU, including student categories
  • 5 used specifically for scholarly activities
Benefits of Hosting

• Shared interests; similar research
• Academic collaborations
• Institutional exchanges
• Potential to gain future graduate students
• Destination to send your own graduate students
• Cultural exchange
Benefits of Hosting
Eligible Scholarly Categories

- **SHORT-TERM SCHOLAR**
  - 3 weeks - 6 months, maximum

- **RESEARCH SCHOLAR**
  - 6+ months – 5 years, maximum
  - Once exchange program has ended, visitor cannot return in this category nor professor for 2 years *(24-month bar/ban to repeat participation)*

- **VISITOR PROFESSOR**
  - Same as “Research Scholar” but will engage in classroom teaching

- **SPECIALIST**
  - Consult, observe or demonstrate specialized knowledge (i.e. artists)
  - 12 months, maximum

- **STUDENT INTERN**
  - Non-enrolled Undergraduates; CANNOT earn degree from NDSU
  - 12 months, maximum
Process

• Faculty member should contact Faculty Immigration unit as soon you are relatively certain an exchange visit will take place
  • Ideally 3+ months before proposed visit
  • Plan for “administrative processing” (i.e. security clearance)

• Info Required:
  • Visitor’s contact information
  • Visiting Scholar/ Visiting Researcher Form (Export Controls form)
  • Host information Form
  • English Attestation Form
    • The US State Dept. requires documented proof of a visitor’s English proficiency skills
  • Copy of Invitation Letter
    • Who, Where, Why (purpose), When, Financial Support?
After Visa Has Been Issued

• Faculty member should check with visitor periodically on the issuance of their visa
• Once arrival date has been determined:
  • Notify Faculty Immigration unit (arrival orientation)
  • Notify department secretary (office space, ID number, keys, etc.)
  • Finalize airport pick-up and (overnight) housing arrangements
  • Make preparations to assist your guest with their arrival (either yourself and/or graduate student)
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Questions???