

## Differences between F-1 and J-1 visas

	F-1 VISA	J-1 VISA
SOURCE OF FUNDING	Sources of funding can be personal, from family, friends, a scholarship, a fellowship OR a combination of one or more of these sources. Any student admitted into a degree program at Northwestern is eligible to apply for a F-1 student visa.	Must have at least 51% of total funding from a source other than personal or from family (or friends). <i>Other than personal funds</i> may include: a scholarship or a grant from an external funding source or a fellowship, assistantship in instruction or assistantship in research from Northwestern. Other external funding sources may also include your home country government, an international organization, or a corporate sponsor.
SPOUSES AND CHILDREN (Dependents)	Dependents in F-2 status may not work or engage in full-time. F-2 spouses may engage in part-time study that is recreational in nature (i.e., language classes). F-2 children may only engage in full-time study if the study is an elementary or secondary school (kindergarten through twelfth grade).	Spouses in J-2 status may apply for work permission to USCIS and may study part-time or full time. There is currently no regulatory restriction on study for J-2 dependent children.
2 YEAR HOME COUNTRY RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT	There is no home country residency requirement following the completion of program.	May be subject to a <a href="#">2-year home country residency requirement</a> if receiving government funding or if from the country from the EV skills lists.
ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT	F-1 Students can work on-campus without OISS Advisor authorization with some <a href="#">requirements</a> . Limited to 20 hours per week while school is in session, but can be full-time during official school breaks.	Requires prior authorization from <a href="#">OISS Advisor</a> . Limited to 20 hours per week while school is in session, but can be full-time during official school breaks.
OFF-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT	<b><a href="#">Optional Practical Training (OPT)</a></b> F-1 students are eligible to apply for up to 12 months of OPT per degree level to work in a job that is directly related to their field of study. Some students with degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) students are eligible for additional 24 months of OPT. Job must be directly related to the student's field of study. Approved by USCIS with a fee.	<b><a href="#">Academic Training (AT)</a></b> AT may not exceed the amount of time it took a student to complete their course of study, or 18 months, whichever is shorter. Ph.D. students engaged in post-doctoral training are eligible for up to 36 months of AT. Job must be directly related to the student's field of study. Approved by Northwestern OISS.
GRACE PERIOD	60-day grace period to depart U.S. following the completion of program or Optional Practical Training	30-day grace period to depart the U.S. following the completion of program or Academic Training.
HEALTH INSURANCE	Northwestern requires every enrolled F-1 student to have health insurance coverage. All F-1 students are required to purchase the Northwestern Student Plan. For more information, please see the <a href="#">International Student Health Insurance</a> website.	Federal law requires both J-1 students and their J-2 dependents to carry health insurance throughout the period of their stay. Insurance must meet the minimum defined by <a href="#">U.S. federal law</a> . J-1 students will be required to purchase the Northwestern Student Plan. For more information, please see the <a href="#">International Student Health Insurance</a> website.