

# J-1 VISA PROGRAM

# THE SPAIN-US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The “J1 VISA PROGRAM” from the Spain-Us Chamber of Commerce in Miami aims to promote the international experience of young professionals and university students.

Through this program participants are given direct contact with techniques and methodologies of companies located in the United States, with the possibility of receiving valuable international professional training and promoting the exchange and knowledge of skills.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

In order to participate in this program, it is necessary that those interested apply for a J1 visa, a non-immigrant visa modality. This visa is intended for newly graduated university students and young professionals so they can engage in a training period and a cultural exchange program.

This type of visa requires the acceptance of a resident company in the United States that offers internships and a nonprofit entity like the Spain-US Chamber of Commerce, which acts as a sponsor.

The main purpose of the sponsor is to sponsor the DS-2019 eligibility certificate, an official document from the United States Department of State that can only be processed by entities authorized to do so. This certificate is processed based on the information of the company and the participant.

## PROGRAM MODALITIES

### J1 INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

This modality of the program is aimed at university students who will finish their studies in the current year, with more than 80% of the subjects studied and passed, and for newly graduated university students with less than one year of professional experience. The minimum duration for an internship is 6 weeks and the maximum is 12 months.

### J1 TRAINING PROGRAM

The training program is aimed at professionals with university degrees whose professional experience exceeds one year. If the participant is a non-university professional, they must have a professional career between 5-10 years. The minimum duration of this program modality is 6 weeks and the maximum is 18 months.

## REQUIREMENTS

1. Demonstrate that he/she was admitted into an accredited exchange program by the United States Government using the form DS-2019 in which the program number sent by the responsible organization appears, as well as the assigned SEVIS electronic number to each exchange visitor. Exchange visas will not be granted without the DS-2019 form.
2. Pay the corresponding SEVIS and VISA fees.
3. Complete the DS-160 non-immigrant form.
4. Present your valid passport.
5. Obtain medical insurance.
6. No Visa refusal reasons are found.
7. Prove that you have sufficient funds to cover all expenses during your stay in the United States or prove that the funds will be provided by the sponsoring organization in the form of a scholarship or financial compensation.
8. Demonstrate sufficient academic preparation to participate in the corresponding program, including knowledge of English, or that the exchange program is designed to accommodate participants who do not speak it.
9. All other requirements that the United States Embassy of the country where the visa is requested deems necessary, such as a personal interview.

The J1 Visa is not a work visa, which is why the company is not obliged to provide the participant with financial compensation. It is up to the company to decide the financial compensation that the participant will receive, if they decide to not provide it or it does not reach \$1,600 monthly, the participant must justify that he/she has sufficient funds to cover that amount by completing and delivering a Financial Statement, filled out and signed by the bank and a Letter of Guarantee, signed by the person who will provide the funds.

## PROGRAM COST

The cost for the J1 VISA PROGRAM of the Spain-Us Chamber of Commerce in Miami is \$2,000 for members and \$3,500 for non-members. This cost may be born by the host company or by the beneficiary of the program, this will depend on the agreement between both parties.

### SERVICES INCLUDED

1. Issuance of the DS-2019 Certificate.
2. Sending the necessary documentation to process the J1 Visa.
3. Assistance and advice.
4. Follow-up during the internship period.
5. Online guidance before arrival in the United States.
6. Site visit and evaluation of the company if necessary.

### SERVICES NO INCLUDED

1. SEVIS rate (mandatory for all participants).
2. Search of the company for the realization of the practices.
3. J1 Visa expenses paid at the American Embassy.
4. Airline Ticket.
5. Health Insurance.
6. Accommodation, compensation or any type of personal expense.

## PROCEDURE

In order to participate, the candidate must contact a company or host institution that can guarantee their stay in the United States, and apply if there is an available position.

The selection process corresponds to the company or institution, based on its own criteria to evaluate the profile of the participant and assessing a sufficient level of English. As proof of the level of English, both the sponsor and the company may ask the participant for any certificates they deem appropriate.

In case no certificate is requested, the participant may be interviewed in English on the day he has the interview at the Embassy.

Once accepted by the company and a proposal has been made to the candidate, the Spain-Us Chamber of Commerce will begin the procedures for the issuance of the DS -2019 form. For this, it is necessary that both parties deliver the following documents:

1. The internship offer must be completed and signed by the company in blue pen.
2. A biographical summary of the participant completed by the participant and signed in blue pen.
3. A training plan. The training plan should consist of a minimum of 3 phases. A form should be completed electronically or in blue pen for each of the phases, and each of them must have the signature in blue of the participant, the supervisor of the company and the Spain-US Chamber of Commerce as a sponsor.
4. The workers compensation of the company.
5. The Exchange visitor's curriculum in english.
6. Two letters of recommendation, signed, with letterhead or seal of company that is recommending.
7. Photocopy of passport.
8. Health insurance that covers the minimum requirements set by the Department of State.

## INFORMATION & CONSULTATIONS

For more information regarding the J1 VISA PROGRAM of the Spain-Us Chamber of Commerce in Miami, or if you have any questions, comments or concerns, contact us at [info@spainchamber.com](mailto:info@spainchamber.com).

\*At the request of a member of the Spain-Us Chamber of Commerce in Miami, the Chamber may issue an internship offer through the means it deems appropriate.