

This handout is designed for the J-2 dependents of J-1 Exchange Visitors. It lists the conditions of J-2 work authorization and tells you how to apply.

Eligibility Requirements:

- ❖ You must hold valid J-2 status, and the Exchange Visitor must hold valid J-1 status, as shown on your I-94 cards and DS-2019.
- ❖ Your income may not be used to support the primary J-1 Exchange Visitor.
- ❖ You may work part-time or full-time, at any job, for any employer (except that you may not practice medicine, even if you hold a license). There is no legal limit to the amount that you may earn.
- ❖ USCIS can authorize J-2 employment as long as the J-1 Exchange Visitor has permission to stay (DS-2019 end date).
- ❖ You are only allowed to engage in employment during the dates specifically stated on your EAD card. Failure to renew 60-90 days before your EAD expiration date will result in an interruption of your employment. You cannot work if your EAD is expired even if you are pending renewal at CIS.

Application Procedures:

In most cases, applications for employment authorization for J-2 dependents should be mailed to the USCIS Service Center serving your region (Mesquite, TX). **Before applying, you should make sure to read all I-765 directions thoroughly before submitting your application.** Be sure to submit all the items below.

- Completed Form I-765, "Application for Employment Authorization," <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/I-765.pdf>
Eligibility Category Code (c)(5)
- A check for payable to U.S. Department of Homeland Security (Note: Fees subject to change at any date)
- Two photographs (Passport style photos)
- Photocopy of the DS-2019, visa, passport of the J-2
- Photocopies of **both sides** of the I-94 card of the J-2
- Photocopy of the DS-2019, visa, passport of the J-1
- Photocopies of **both sides** of the I-94 card of the J-1
- A copy of your marriage certificate
- Copies of prior EAD cards, *if applicable*
- A letter from the J-2 dependent requesting work permission. The point of the letter is not to demonstrate need; it is to show the USCIS that the **J-1 Exchange Visitor has sufficient resources for your family's expenses and will not depend on your earnings.** In the letter you should indicate the sources and amounts of the J-1 Exchange Visitor's support and state specifically that income from your earnings will not be used for the J-1 Exchange Visitor's support. J-2's who wish to work must explain their motivation for seeking employment such as: practicing their English language skills, learning about the American work environment, or interest in such activities such as leisure travel for recreational and/or cultural purposes during their visit to the United States.