

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 is eligible to apply for an 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. Other external funding sources may also include your home country government, an international organization, or a corporate sponsor.
SPOUSES AND CHILDREN	Spouses in F-2 status may not work or engage in full-time study unless they change their immigration status. F-2 spouse 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 dependents.
2 YEAR HOME COUNTRY RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT	There is no home country residency requirement following the completion of program.	May be subject to a 2 year home country residency requirement if receiving government funding or if from the country from the EV skills lists.
ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT	On-campus employment is "incident to status", and requires prior authorization from advisor. Limited to 20 hours per week while school is in session, but can be full-time during official school breaks.	Requires prior authorization from advisor. Limited to 20 hours per week while school is in session, but can be full-time during official school breaks.
OFF-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT	<u>Optional Practical Training OPT</u> 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.	<u>Academic Training AT</u> 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 ISSS.
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	Regulations do not require F-1 students and F-2 dependents to carry Health Insurance. However, FIU requires every enrolled student to have health insurance coverage. FIU Health Insurance Requirements	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 U.S. federal law .