

Differences Between F-1 & J-1

	F-1 Student Visa	J-1 Student Visa
IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form I-20, "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status. Full time, degree seeking international students are eligible for F-1 visa. Majority of international students at MSU are on F-1 visa. Form I-20 can be electronically signed by OISS and emailed to students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form DS-2019 or "Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor. Students with only personal or family funding are NOT eligible for a J-1 visa. Original Form DS-2019 must be used for visa and travel purposes
SOURCE OF FUNDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sources of funding can be personal, from family, friends, a scholarship, fellowship, OR a combination of one or more of these sources. Any student admitted into a degree program at MSU is eligible to apply for an F-1 student visa. Must show financial proof for the first academic year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sources of funding must have at least 51% of total funding from a source other than personal or from family (or friends). Must show financial support for the entire length of program when requesting the initial document. Must show financial proof for the entire length of program when requesting the initial document.
SPOUSES AND CHILDREN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals in F-2 status may not accept employment (paid or unpaid) or engage in business under any circumstances. F-2 spouse may enroll in less than a full course of study. F-2 children may only engage in full-time study if the study is an elementary or secondary school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> J-2 spouses and J-2 children age 14 and above are eligible to apply for work authorization through U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). All J-2 dependents are eligible to study full-time at any level
2-YEAR HOME RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT	Not Applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be subject to a 2-year home residency requirement if receiving government funding or if from the country on the EV skills list.
ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> F-1 students are generally permitted to work on-campus a maximum of 20 hours per week during fall/spring semesters. F-1 students are eligible to work more than 20 hours during annual vacations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> J-1 Student Employment: Under MSU Visa Sponsorship are generally permitted to work on-campus a maximum of 20 hours per week during fall/spring semesters. J-1 students are eligible to work more than 20 hours during annual vacations
OFF-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT/ PRACTICAL TRAINING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible F-1 students wishing to work off-campus MUST apply for a temporary work authorization called CPT Eligible F-1 students may apply for OPT during their final semester 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible J-1 students wishing to work off-campus MUST apply for a temporary work authorization; Academic Training (AT).
GRACE PERIOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> F-1 students and their F-2 dependents have a 60-day grace period following the completion of program or OPT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> J-1 students and their J-2 dependents have a 30-day grace period following the completion of program or AT.
HEALTH INSURANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MSU requires every enrolled student to have the MSU student health insurance plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal law requires both J-1 students and their dependents to maintain adequate health insurance.