What is Validation of Initial Arrival?

ECFMG, as a J-1 visa program sponsor, must notify the U.S. Department of State (DoS) of the arrival of all newly-sponsored J-1 exchange visitor physicians by confirming each new J-1 physician’s arrival in SEVIS.

Specific documents evidencing arrival in J-1 status are required before a SEVIS record can be validated.
Who Needs to be Validated?

All foreign national physicians who have *newly acquired* J-1 visa status **must be validated**.

Foreign national physicians *continuing* under ECFMG sponsorship in the same or a different training program **do not require validation**.
Validation of Arrival

Upon arrival to the training program, J-1 physicians must provide the TPL with evidence of their J-1 visa status.

Evidence of J-1 status includes copies of:

- **J-1 visa stamp** in passport issued by U.S. Consulate, *unless* a Canadian citizen
- **I-94 record** showing J-1; D/S (Duration of Status)
Visa and Visa Status

• A *visa* is the physical stamp affixed to a passport page that permits a foreign national to enter the United States in a specific visa classification.
  - May only be obtained at U.S. consulates outside of the U.S.
  - Only required if applicant is physically outside U.S. and wishes to enter/reenter
  - Expiration of the visa in a passport will not affect a physician while he or she is maintaining J-1 visa status in the United States

Visas are not required of Canadian citizens entering the U.S. with a Canadian passport
Visa Stamp Issued by U.S. Consulate

*ENTRY DOCUMENT ONLY*

- Confirms:
  - Visa type/class
  - Number of entries
    - Single or multiple
  - Issue date
  - Expiration date for entry
    - May expire while in the U.S.
Visa and Visa Status (cont.)

- **Visa status** is the legal condition or manner under which a foreign national is present in the United States.
  - Indicates an individual’s purpose for being in the U.S. and the objectives he or she is authorized to pursue, such as training, studying, or working.
  - Reflected on **Form I-94** (Entry/Departure Record), which is issued at the U.S. port of entry to every entering nonimmigrant.

An ECFMG-sponsored physician’s Form I-94 should always reflect “J-1” status with the notation of “D/S” (Duration of Status).
Exceptions to Visa Issuance

Citizens of Canada are not required to have a U.S. Consulate visa stamp

J-1 exchange visitors who change visa status within the U.S. through U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will have a Form I-797, not a J-1 visa stamp in passport
I-94 Arrival/Departure Record

• When a foreign national enters the U.S., their I-94 record is automatically generated and is stored online
  • Previously, foreign nationals were issued paper I-94 cards, but CBP (U.S. Customs and Border Protection) now issues all I-94 records electronically
  • A physical stamp is still placed in the passport upon entry

A traveler’s most recent I-94 record, as well as arrival/departure history, can be accessed on CBP’s I-94 Website.
Most Recent I-94

Admission (I-94) Record Number: 10101010101
Most Recent Date of Entry: 7/10/2014
Class of Admission: J1
Admit Until Date: D/S
Details provided on the I-94 Information form:

Last/Surname: Brewster
First (Given) Name: Mortimer
Birth Date: 1985 March 29
Passport Number: 555ABC
Country of Issuance: Nepal
Example Form I-797

Form I-797 is a “Notice of Action” and is commonly referred to as an “Approval Notice.” This form shows a change of status (CoS) to J-1 visa classification.

I-94 is also available on Form I-797 here
What to Upload for SEVIS Validation

Once an initial (not continuing or transferring) J-1 physician arrives in the United States, you are required to promptly complete and sign the Validation of Initial Arrival in J-1 Status form and upload it as a PDF through EVNet with copies of the applicant’s:

1. **Form I-94** (Arrival/Departure Record) or **Form I-797** (applicable if the applicant was approved for a change of status in the U.S. through USCIS)
   - J-1 physicians may print a copy of Form I-94 card at [https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home](https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home)

2. **J-1 visa page from the passport**, if applicable (Canadian citizens do not have J visa stamp)

Once a J-1 physician’s start date is validated, no changes can be made to the date.
Validation of Initial Arrival in J-1 Status Form

www.ecfmg.org/evsp/arrival.pdf

HIGH PRIORITY

Don’t wait: validate! TPLs should submit this form as soon as possible after a new J-1 physician enters the United States.
EVNet Search for Validated/Non-Validated Physicians
# Non-Validated Physicians

Welcome Anthony Fisher

Search for applicants/physicians at your programs/institutions

- **USMLE/ECFMG ID**
- **Last Name**
- **Pending appointment profiles**
- **Currently sponsored**
- **Non Validated Physicians**

Viewing Options

- Records per page: 16

13 Total Records

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Initial Applicants Facing Delays

Communicate with EVSP!

- Is the contract still valid?
- Is the program willing to wait? If so, how long?
- Was the visa delayed or denied?
Delays in Start Date

J-1s **must** start training within 30 days of arrival to the U.S.

- Communication with Program Coordinators and Directors
  - When and why to notify the TPL
Applying for a Social Security Number

• Before applying for a Social Security Number (SSN), J-1s must:
  1. Wait **11 business days** after being validated in SEVIS; **AND**
  2. Confirm validation by ECFMG of the SEVIS record – “Active”

Applying for a SSN *prior* to SEVIS validation may cause significant delays in issuance of the SSN

• J-1 applicants receive this info in the “Welcome Letter” email sent by ECFMG after initial DS-2019 form is issued
Travel Outside the U.S.

- EVSP Travel Information
  
  www.ecfmg.org/evsp/during-travel.html

- Request for Duplicate Form DS-2019
  

- Re-entry to the U.S. as a J-1 requires:
  
  - Travel validated DS-2019 Form
  - J-1 visa in passport as issued by U.S. Consulate*

* Except for Canadian citizens
Required Notifications

• See our Forms & Memos page for the required reporting forms for:
  • Resignations
  • Dismissals
  • Remediation
  • Leaves of Absence (including Maternity Leave)
  • Off-site Rotation/Elective
  • Incident or Allegation
Questions?

(215) 823-2121

EVNetAdmin@ecfmg.org