

## Dependents In J-2 Status

### **Who is eligible for J-2 status?**

- Spouses and unmarried children (under the age of 21) of a J-1 are eligible for J-2 status.
- When children turn 21, they are no longer eligible for J-2 status.

### **Are there any special requirements of the J-2 status?**

- J-2 dependents must maintain valid health insurance.
- If the J-1 scholar is subject to the 212e home residency requirement, the J-2 dependents are also subject.

### **Can J-2 dependents work?**

- Yes, J-2 dependents can apply for employment authorization from the Department of Homeland Security. If approved, they will receive an employment authorization card, and are allowed to work during the time period specified on the card.

### **Can J-2 dependents attend school?**

- Yes, J-2 dependents may study full-time or part-time.

### **What travel documents are needed to enter the U.S. in J-2 status?**

- Valid passport.
- Valid J-2 visa stamped in passport.
- Valid SEVIS Form DS-2019, endorsed for travel by the J-1 program sponsor.
- Proof of dependent status.
- Proof of financial support.

### **Can the J-2 stay in the U.S. while the J-1 scholar travels?**

- Yes, only if the J-1 is outside of the U.S. for a short length of time.
- If the J-1 is traveling outside the U.S. for a significant length of time, the J-2 dependents should accompany the J-1.
- J-2 status is contingent on the validity of the J-1's status. If the J-1 is out of the U.S. for a long period of time, the J-2 dependent can fall out of status, and could have difficulties obtaining a J-2 visa in the future.

### **Programs & Services offered for Dependents:**

- **International Women:** Gather weekly to learn about American culture, the St. Louis community, and each other's cultures.  
Contact: Pat Sarantites at sarantites@sbcglobal.net or Lorraine Gnecco at lorrainegnecco@mail.com
- **Washington University Spouses and Partners Association (WUSPA):** A support network for the spouses and partners of Washington University affiliates.  
Visit their website: <http://wuspa.wustl.edu>
- **Washington University Medical Center Housestaff Auxillary (WUMCHA):** A group of female residents, fellows, medical students and attendings who are specifically affiliated with the Medical Center, and female spouses and significant others of the same.  
Visit their website: <http://www.wumcha.com>

Stop by the **OISS** reception area at Stix House (6470 Forsyth) to pick up information about finding housing, driving in St. Louis, and upcoming community events.