

The Student Intern Program



Student Interns are part of the College and University Student category of the BridgeUSA Program. Student interns are enrolled in and pursuing a degree at an accredited post-secondary academic institution outside of the U.S. Their U.S. internship program must fulfill educational objectives for their degree at the international home institution.

Student interns agree that they will return to complete their academic degree from their international home institution after their internship.

The U.S. host institution must meet the following criteria:

- Degree-granting
- Post-secondary
- Accredited

The student intern must demonstrate to IIE that they have the past academic experience and credentials needed to successfully complete the U.S. internship program, they are in good academic standing, and that the U.S. internship will meet their educational objectives at home.

The internship program should provide students with an opportunity to learn about American techniques, methodologies, and technology and expand upon their existing knowledge and skills in their academic field of study. A program must not duplicate the student intern's prior experience.

The program exists primarily to support the student intern's learning and academic goals, not to provide services to an employer or to fill an employment need. Positions may not displace full- or part-time, temporary, or permanent, U.S. workers.

The supervisor at the U.S. host institution will provide detailed information to IIE during the application process on the position, goals and objectives, knowledge and skills to be learned, the methodology for teaching these skills, and the methodology for evaluation of progress. Student interns and their

IIE Program Fees

Fees to be paid by the host institution:

- Initial sponsorship fee (up to 12 months) = \$1500
- Extension of sponsorship, per year = \$500
- Expedited processing service (optional) = \$750
- Enrollment in IIE group insurance (optional) = Inquire directly

Fees to be paid by either the host institution or the student:

- J-2 sponsorship fee, per dependent = \$500
- Individual insurance meeting minimum J-1 visa requirements = varies, from \$75 - \$200 per month
- DS-2019 re-issuance fee = \$50

Other Fees

These fees are not included in IIE's services but must be paid during the J-1 Visa application:

- \$220 SEVIS Fee
- \$185 nonimmigrant visa application fee

supervisors must complete evaluations for IIE at the midpoint, for programs over six (6) months in duration, and end of the program. U.S. host institutions also detail how the intern will be engaged in U.S. cultural activities during their program.

Student interns may not be placed in:

- Unskilled or casual labor positions (e.g., cashiers, clerks, cooks, janitors, receptionists, ushers);
- A position involves childcare or elder care;
- A position in the field of aviation;
- A position in the clinical/medical/health fields that requires any type of patient care or contact, including any work that would require the student to provide therapy, medication, or other clinical or medical care (e.g., sports or physical therapy, psychological counseling, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, social work, speech therapy, or early childhood education);
- Positions may not include more than 20% clerical work, such as data entry, filing, typing, mail sorting and distribution, and other general administrative or support tasks.

IIE does not sponsor self-funded programs. The student intern must demonstrate to IIE that they are supported substantially by funding from a source other than personal or family funds. Such a source might be the U.S. institution, the home institution abroad, a fellowship, scholarship or support of a government agency.

For an overview of eligibility requirements, please visit the U.S. Department of State BridgeUSA program website: <https://j1visa.state.gov/programs/college-and-university-student/>.

Duration

Student internship programs can be a minimum of three (3) weeks and a maximum of twelve (12) months in duration. The internship must be full-time (a minimum of 32 hours per week).

Cost of Living and Transportation

The cost of living can vary greatly depending on where the U.S. host institution is located. Prior to applying, student interns should research online to budget accordingly. Student interns should ask the host institution if on-campus housing is provided and if housing is included in the price of tuition. Off-campus housing in a large city can cost approximately \$2000 per month, while housing in a smaller town might cost closer to \$500 per month. Utilities may include electric or gas (\$50 - \$100 per month, depending on the size of the housing), cable and internet (\$50 - \$200 depending on plan).

Student interns should also inquire about the cost of meal plans at the host institution's dining facilities and if they are eligible to purchase these plans. Cost of food may range from \$200 - \$500 per month, depending on location and preference to cook or eat out regularly.

Most urban areas have public transit, such as subways, buses, and trains. The host institution may also offer a bus system or ride-sharing options at reduced cost for students. On many campuses, students

can access the services and amenities they need by walking or biking. Interns are encouraged to confirm with the host institution what access, if any, they have to standard student amenities and services.

Owning a car in the U.S. can be expensive, and gas prices can be between \$2 - \$4 per gallon. Drivers will need to make sure they have or obtain the proper driving license (through the Department of Motor Vehicles for the state) and vehicle insurance. Overall, IIE recommends that each student intern have a minimum of \$2500 per month available, including the cost of housing and food (which may be covered directly through tuition costs). Please be aware that wages and/or stipends received for the internship might not cover all living expenses and student interns should budget to have personal funds available.

Next Steps

Interested in exchange visitor sponsorship through IIE? A representative of the host institution should contact IIE to begin our online application process.

IIE recommends submitting the application at least 2-3 months in advance of the intended program start date. As part of the application students will need to provide documentation including, but not limited to: Resume, diplomas and transcripts, and passport.

The passport should be valid at least 6 months past the expected program end date.

This fact sheet references information from <https://j1visa.state.gov/> and the **eCFR Part 62**.