

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL RELATIONS

COMPARISON BETWEEN F AND J STATUS

F-1 Student Visa

SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Can be personal from family and friends, a scholarship, a fellowship, or a combination of both.

SPOUSES AND CHILDREN:

F-2 spouses may not work or engage in full-time study. They may enroll in “less than a full course of study” even if the course of study leads to or counts toward a degree. To engage in full-time study, spouse will need to apply for a change of visa status that allows such study, i.e., F-1 or J-1 visa category.

ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT:

Student can work 20 hours total per week when school is in session; full time during recess periods.

OFF-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT:

Student must go through Pre-Degree Optional Practical Training (“OPT”) or Post-Degree OPT in related field of study. Must apply with USCIS for work authorization approval. Application materials are available from OMR.

TWO(2) YEAR HOME COUNTRY RESIDENCY:

No requirement for F-1 visa status.

GRACE PERIOD:

After graduation, an F-1 student has a **60-day grace period** to depart the United States.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Once the Student decides which Visa Category (F-1 or J-1) he wishes to enter the United States, the Student must stay in the selected visa category throughout his entire program until his Program End Date.

J-1 Exchange Visitor-Student Category

SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Substantial part of funding must be from a source other than personal or from family or friends. *Other than personal funds* may include: a scholarship or grant from an external source or your home country government, an international organization, or a corporate sponsor.

SPOUSES AND CHILDREN:

J-2 spouses may study for a degree. They may not work without obtaining work authorization approval by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (“USCIS”). Application materials are available from OMR.

ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT:

Student can work 20 hours total per week when school is in session; full time during recess periods.

OFF-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT/Academic Training (AT):

AT may apply for up to 18 months of work and related to student’s field of study. PTS is currently reviewing this process and opportunity. More information will follow.

TWO(2) YEAR HOME COUNTRY RESIDENCY:

Student and Dependents may be subject to a **2 year home country residency requirement** if receiving government funding or if from a country that appears on the Exchange Visitor Skills Lists. This means you will need to stay in your home country for 2 years before being eligible for a change of status to an employee visa or gain US Permanent Residency status.

GRACE PERIOD:

After graduation, J-1 student has a **30-day grace period** to depart the United States.