## 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.