

UF ISE
J-1 Visiting Scholar Policy
May 4, 2018

The motivation for the ISE Department to sponsor J-1 visiting international scholars is for unique educational, scholarly and cultural exchange, leading to impact for the visitor, department faculty and/or ISE students as well as Department recognition.

J-1 visiting scholar sponsorship by the Department requires provision of resources, including: office space, access to lab facilities, as well as computer and internet access. In some rare cases, offers of compensation may be made with clear identification of activities and outcomes (publications, conference presentations, course instruction) for a short-term research scholar/scholar appointment.

In all cases, the UF J-1 policy requires that a research, teaching or course of study be identified that is to be accomplished jointly or “in close collaboration” with a faculty supervisor (<https://internationalcenter.ufl.edu/international-students-scholars/new-international-scholars/about-j-1-program>). All J-1 invitations and funding letters require identification of a sponsoring faculty member.

On this basis, the ISE Department sponsors new visitors and provides extensions for existing J-1 visitors (visas) in the case that a sponsoring faculty is in residence in the Department for supervision of the J-1 visiting scholar. Supervision includes direct (face-to-face) collaboration with the visitor towards achieving the joint research, teaching or study effort. Faculty collaboration with J-1 scholars occurring strictly via electronic channels (equivalent to working with an international colleague while they remain at their home institution) is not considered as a sufficient arrangement for new J-1 visas or extensions, while the sponsoring faculty member is away from the Department for any extended period (1 semester or more).

This policy also establishes that responsibility for faculty supervision of visitors cannot be transferred from one faculty member to another, or to the Department Chair, during the course of a visit, due to faculty extended leave or sabbatical. All arrangements for visitor supervision and collaboration must be made with a formal agreement prior to any extended leave or sabbatical by a sponsoring faculty member.

The only exception to this policy is if a current J-1 visitor is working in a defined project team that has a formal research plan. Visitor participation in the team and support for research activity must remain tenable during the faculty supervisor’s absence. In this case, the Department Chair will temporarily (for a period of no more than 6 months) assume supervision responsibilities for the visitor. In this case, a J-1 extend/amend form would need to be completed before the sponsoring faculty takes leave or sabbatical.