**J-2 Dependent Information Sheet**  
*Information for Spouses and Children of J-1 Visa Holders*

J-1 Exchange Visitors wishing to bring their spouse and/or children with them to UW-Platteville must request to add them as a dependent in SEVIS before dependents can apply for a J-2 visa.

**Who is eligible for J-2 Status?**
The spouse and unmarried minor children (under 21 years of age) of the J-1 Exchange Visitor are eligible for J-2 dependent status. A J-1 Exchange Visitor at Penn can be either a “student” or “scholar”.

**What is the process for becoming a J-2 Dependent?**
Each J-2 dependent must have his/her own Form DS-2019. This DS-2019 Form can be obtained from International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) at UW-Platteville by the J-1 status holder. Once the dependent has the DS-2019 Form, he/she must either: 1) Apply for an J-2 visa stamp at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate overseas (except Canadian citizens) and gain J-2 status through entry to the United States by presenting their dependent DS-2019 Form, passport and J-2 visa stamp (accompanied by any supporting documents) at the U.S. Port of Entry, OR 2) Apply for a Change of Status within the U.S. (please meet with the ISSS advisor for further details).

**What is the process for applying for a Dependent DS-2019 form?**
To apply for dependent DS-2019 forms for spouses and/or children of J-1 professors at UW-Platteville, please complete and submit the following for each dependent:

- J-2 Dependent Application Form
- Financial verification form
- Financial Documentation (i.e. bank statement showing funding for entire length of J-1 program)
- Passport identity page
- Verification of relationship (birth certificate or marriage license, translated to English)

**Employment while in J-2 Status**
In most cases a J-2 Visa holder can seek employment. To work, a J-2 Visa holder must obtain an Employment Authorization Document from the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Money earned by a J-2 cannot be used to support the principal J-1 Visa holder.
Study while in J-2 Status
J-2 children are permitted to enroll in elementary or secondary schools while in the U.S. Currently, the regulations do not have a prohibition for J-2s engaging in post-secondary study on a full-time basis, as long as their primary purpose in the U.S. is to accompany the J-1 status holder.

If a J-2 dependent’s academic program has not ended by the time the J-1 holder’s status ends, the J-2 can request a Change of Status to F-1 student status through USCIS, as long as the J-1 and J-2 are not subject to the Two-Year Home Residency Requirement.

Travel and Reentry in J-2 Status
J-2 dependents follow similar travel and reentry procedures as the J-1 status holder, including having a valid travel signature on their DS-2019 before traveling outside the U.S. Travel signatures for J-1/J-2 DS-2019 documents are valid for 6 months. J-2 dependents should carry copies of the J-1’s most recent immigration documents if traveling separately.

Grace Period
J-1 and J-2 program participants have a 30 day grace period beyond the ending of the J-1 Exchange Visitor’s program. During the grace period, it is appropriate to travel around the U.S., make travel arrangements, pack belongings, but work and/or study is not permitted during that period. There is no possible extension of the grace period.

Health Insurance Requirements for J-2 Dependents
Unlike any other immigration categories, the Department of State (DOS) federally mandates all J-1 and J-2 status holders to carry adequate health insurance coverage. The J-1 student or professor must purchase insurance for him/herself and his/her J-2 dependents through UW-Platteville’s health insurance policy for international students/scholars immediately upon arrival in the U.S.

DOS required insurance coverage must meet the following criteria:
- Medical insurance must cover the entire period of participation in the Exchange Visitor program.
- Medical benefits must provide a minimum of $100,000 per accident or illness.
- Medical evacuation must be covered in the amount of $50,000, minimum. (Medical evacuation is emergency medical transportation to the home country.)
- Repatriation must be covered in the amount of $25,000, minimum (In the unfortunate event of death, repatriation is the transportation of remains back to the home country.)
- The deductible must not exceed $500 per accident or illness.

Note: Failure to secure or maintain adequate health insurance for both J-1 and J-2 visa holders will result in termination of the J-1 program participation.