

## J-2 Employment Authorization

J-2 visa holders may apply for work permission from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) once they arrive in the US. Once approved, USCIS will issue an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) card. With an EAD J-2 dependents can work in any job, part-time or full-time. EAD cards are valid for one year or up to the end date of the J-1s DS-2019. Authorization can be extended up to the end date on the DS-2019.

**USCIS does NOT accept J-2 work permission applications online. You must mail a hard copy of the application and all required documents. You can find the correct mailing address [here](#).**

Required documents:

- 2 US Passport photos taken within the past 30 days
  - With name and I-94 number written lightly in pencil on back of each
- USCIS filing fee as a check or money order
- Form [G-1145](#) (optional, but highly recommended) to request emailed approval
- Original form [I-765](#)
  - You can access and download the [I-765](#) form from the USCIS website. J-2 I-765 applications must be submitted from inside the US. You must be physically present in the US when your application is received by USCIS. There are no exceptions to this application policy.
- Written statement from the J-1 requesting work authorization
  - USCIS wants to ensure the employment of a J-2 dependent is for recreational and cultural activities only, therefore they require a letter showing the J-1 has sufficient funding for the length of their program.
  - We recommend including the following sentence: **“Any income earned as a J-2 will be used to support myself in cultural and recreational activities, and not my J-1 spouse.”**
- Photocopy of passport bio page and visa stamp for J-1 and J-2
- Photocopy of current DS-2019 for J-1 and J-2
- Photocopy of I-94 for J-1 and J-2
- Financial documentation. Photocopy of funding dated within the past 6 months. (i.e. J-1 appointment letter, bank statements, scholarship letter)
- Proof of marriage. Photocopy with translation if not in English.
- Photocopy of previous EAD card, if applicable.

After submitting your documents, you will receive an I-797 receipt notice. Your application could take a few months to process, the receipt number allows you to check the status of your application online [here](#). Please allow 3-5 months processing time to receive your EAD card.

Authorization length on the J-2 EAD card is at the discretion of USCIS.

## FAQs

Can a J-2 get a Social Security Number (SSN)?

You may choose to apply for a Social Security Number (SSN) for tax purposes during the J-2 employment authorization application process. There is a section on form I-765 that you may complete to request that the government assigns you an SSN while processing your employment authorization. We recommend using this service, as it will result in your obtaining an SSN faster.

Note: If you did not apply for an SSN with your I-765 you can still apply after receiving employment offer and your EAD card. We recommend contacting the SSA for support or using the link here.

How long will my J-2 EAD card be valid for?

J-2 EAD cards are valid for one year or up to the end date on the DS-2019. If your DS-2019 is longer than one year, you may include the following statement in your employment request: **"I would like to request employment until the end date of my DS-2019 on (include actual DS-2019 end date here), under federal regulations 8 CFR274a.12(a) and (c)."** Authorization length on the J-2 EAD card is at the discretion of USCIS.