

J-1 Visa Intern & Trainee

Exchange Visitor Programs in the U.S.

Who is GEC - Global Educational Concepts?

To participate in a J-1 Intern/Trainee exchange visitor program, participants must have a U.S. sponsor designated by the U.S. Department of State. GEC is a designated sponsor that will screen and select participants based on criteria set forth in program regulations and are authorized to issue the Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status (Form DS-2019), which is the basic document to support an application for an exchange visitor visa (J-1 Visa). Sponsors also provide pre-arrival program information and monitoring of participants while they are in the U.S. and are a resource for assistance during the participant's program. GEC also provides pre-arrival program information and monitoring throughout the duration of the program in the US, and is a resource for assistance on arranging temporary or permanent housing.

What is the J-1 Intern or Trainee program?

An Exchange visitor program that is designed to allow foreign college/university students, recent graduates or professionals to come to the United States to gain exposure to U.S. culture and to receive hands-on experience and training in U.S. business practices in their chosen occupational field.

Benefits of the program

- The program bridges the gap between formal classroom education and practical work experience.
- The program enhances the skills and expertise of exchange visitors in their academic or occupational fields.
- The participant gains an international experience and learns about another culture.
- The participant has opportunities to create networks in their occupational field and for friendships with individuals from the U.S. and all over the world.

Eligibility – Are you qualified to participate in an Intern or Trainee program?

INTERN Program - To qualify as an intern, you must either be: **Currently enrolled** in and pursuing studies at a degree or certificate granting post-secondary academic institution outside the United States; **OR Have recently graduated from an academic institution within the past 12 months** and your intended exchange visitor program start date would be before the 1 year anniversary of your graduation date. * **NOTE: Your program of study must directly relate to and show substantial coursework in the field of training that you are pursuing. No previous work experience in the training field is required.**

TRAINEE Program - To qualify as a trainee, you must either: 1) **Already have a degree or certificate** from a post-secondary academic institution with your graduation date being more than 12 months ago AND have **at least one year (12 months total) of prior related work experience** outside the United States in the occupational field in which you are seeking training. * **NOTE: Both your degree and work experience must be directly related to the field of training that you are pursuing OR 2) Have five years of work experience** outside the United States in the occupational field in which you are seeking training. **No degree or certificate from an academic institution is needed in this scenario.**