WORK AUTHORIZATION FOR J-2 DEPENDENTS

J-2 dependents can obtain work authorization from the Department of Homeland Security. The work may be of any kind, on- or off-campus. Their income from the work must not be for the support of the J-1 student or scholar to whom the J-2 is related. J-2s may work only if the income is to be used for their own support (and perhaps that of other people in the family).

***It can take at least 90 days to receive an Employment Authorization Card***

Procedure

To apply for work authorization as a J-2 visa holder, assemble the following documents:

- Completed Form I-765 (available at www.uscis.gov/i-765)
- Two recent, passport-style photos in an envelope labeled with your name (see specifications at https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/photos.html)
- $380 check or money order made payable to “US Department of Homeland Security”
- Printout of Form I-94 (yours and your J-1 relative’s)
- Copies of the biographical, visa, and expiration (if applicable) pages in passport (yours and your J-1 relative’s)
- Copies of all DS-2019s (yours and your J-1 relative’s)
- Cover letter requesting work authorization (sample below)

Paperwork should be stapled and mailed via certified/return receipt mail (copy or scan all documents before mailing) to:

USCIS Dallas Lockbox
ATTN: I-765
PO Box 660867
Dallas, TX 75266

If you prefer to use express mail or courier delivery (such as UPS or Federal Express), send your documents to:

USCIS
ATTN: AOS
2501 S. State Hwy 121
Business Suite 400
Lewisville, TX 75067
SAMPLE COVER LETTER FOR APPLICATION FOR J-2 WORK AUTHORIZATION

Date

USCIS Address

Re: Application for Work Authorization for J-2 Dependent

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the J-2 dependent of J-1 exchange visitor (insert name of J-1), and I am writing to request authorization to work. My (spouse/father/mother) receives (salary, stipend, grant, etc.) from (source of funds) sufficient to provide for all of (his/her) expenses. I want to be employed to provide for my own expenses (and those of my child/children). Any income from my employment will be used exclusively for my support (and that of my child/children) and not for supporting my (spouse/parent).

Enclosed are photocopies of my and my J-1 relative’s Forms DS-2019(s), Forms I-94, and biographical and visa passport pages of our current passports.

Sincerely yours,

(Signature)
(Name-typed)
(Address)