PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION INFORMATION
FOR J-1 VISAA HOLDERS

VISA VALIDITY AND AUTHORIZATION TO STAY
Entry into the United States is a two-step process:
1. Visa application at the U.S. Consulate, which gives you the entry permit in your passport. (Canadian citizens do not have to apply for a visa).
2. Entry examination at the port of entry by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which grants you permission to stay and to be employed with the adjudicated Form DS-2019 and Form I-94.

Visa validity and permission to stay in the U.S. may have the same expiration date; however, visa validity may be less, depending on reciprocal agreements between your home country and the U.S. Once you are admitted into the U.S., the validity date on your DS-2019 determines your permission to stay in the U.S.

MEDICAL INSURANCE
We strongly recommend that you purchase travel insurance, which will cover you (and your dependents) for up to two months after your arrival in Riverside. You will not be able to get medical insurance in the United States, which will be in effect immediately after your arrival.

It is a U.S. Federal Government requirement that exchange visitors and their dependents have adequate medical insurance coverage for the period of their stay at this university. For your coverage to meet the minimum levels required, you must provide proof that your insurance has:

- Medical Coverage not to exceed $200,000 per accident and illness
- Deductible not to exceed $500.00 per accident or illness
- Medical evacuation in the amount of $10,000
- Repatriation insurance in the amount of $7,500

Before your departure, you must know whether or not your hosting department at UC Riverside will provide you with medical insurance; if not, you must bring sufficient money to pay for your own insurance.

UCR Employment With Salary – With the exception of Medical Evacuation and Repatriation coverage, the University will pay your medical insurance. Medical evacuation and repatriation coverage is excluded, since the University’s insurance plans cover only domestic medical needs. At the orientation meeting with the foreign scholar advisors, you will receive instruction on enrollment with Garnet powers for the additional required medical evacuation and repatriation coverage.

UCR Employment without Salary: You should obtain medical insurance before you leave your home country, or you must purchase it immediately by enrollment with Garnet powers after your arrival at UC Riverside.

NOTE: UCR’s “CORE” medical benefits does not meet the United States Federal Government Requirements.
Garnet Powers will verify that your insurance plan will cover all requirements. If your insurance meet or exceed the J-1 visa health insurance requirements which also applies to your eligible dependents you may waive (decline) enrollment with Garnett Powers.

Failure to maintain medical insurance coverage for you and your dependents will be cause for termination of your program.

Medical insurance is quite expensive in the United States. The monthly cost for one person ranges from approximately $80.00 to $350.00 based on age. Family coverage (with two children) ranges from approximately $450.00 to $650.00 per month.

**HOUSING**
Our office cannot make any housing arrangements on your behalf. For housing information, please contact: Housing Services, 3595 Canyon Crest Drive, Riverside, CA 92507. Telephone (951) 827-6350, FAX: (951) 827-3807. [http://www.housing.ucr.edu](http://www.housing.ucr.edu) or email: info@housing.ucr.edu.

**SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER**
After ISC has completed/validated your record in SEVIS you must wait 10 days after validation before you can apply for a Social Security Number (SSN). You must apply for the SSN in person. There is no application fee. Bring the following documents: passport, DS-2019 form, I-94 print out [www.cbp.gov/I94](http://www.cbp.gov/I94).

If your appointment at UCR is without salary, you are not eligible for a SSN.

**CALIFORNIA DRIVER’S LICENSE**
If you are planning to drive in California, you must apply for a California Driver’s License. An International Driver’s license may be used only temporarily. A foreign driver's license is not acceptable. In order to apply, you must provide a SSN to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) [http://www.dmv.ca.gov/](http://www.dmv.ca.gov/)

**TAXES**
For those who will be employed with salary at UCR, be aware that the salary indicated is your gross income. Federal and state taxes will be deducted from your gross income. Taxes are assessed according to a scale from 12-16%, and can be higher, depending on your monthly income. For example, if your monthly income is approximately $2,000, your taxes will be about 15% of your gross income. Citizens from certain countries may be exempt from federal tax due to a tax treaty between the United States and the national’s home country.

**CLIMATE IN RIVERSIDE**
Fall temperatures range from 24º to 29º C in the daytime and 7º to 13º at night. In the winter, we have occasional rain showers and temperatures range from 10º to 21º in the daytime and 0º to 5º C at night. Spring temperatures range from 16º to 27º in the daytime and 10º to 16º at night. Summer temperatures (until September) can be hot, ranging from 32º to 38º in the daytime and 16º to 21º at night. Bring a variety of clothing, mostly for warm weather, but bring sweaters or jackets as well.

**SEVIS Regulations for J Visa Holders**

- Report any change of residential address within 10 days to The International Scholar Center
- Keep your passport valid at all times
• Keep your DS-2019 form valid at all times. You must apply for an extension before your DS-2019 expires.
• Contact The International Scholar Center:
  o If you are planning to travel to another country outside the United States
  o If you are planning to transfer to a different employer/university
• Engage in research or teaching activities only as stated on your DS-2019 (#4).
• Do not engage in any unauthorized employment.
• Maintain health insurance requirements for you and your dependents as specified by the U.S. Department of State. Please review the certification you have signed.
• If employed with salary, file the appropriate federal and state income tax returns by April 15 of every calendar year.
• When you terminate your employment at UCR, before you leave Riverside, notify The International Scholar Center.