



Work Permission for J-2 Dependents

J-2 dependents are eligible to apply for work permission directly from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), provided the funds earned will not be used to support the J-1 spouse. Authorization is generally granted in periods of one year and remains valid only as long as the J-1 student or scholar maintains his/her status. *Work cannot begin until authorizing document is received.*

Conditions for Employment:

1. You must document that your income will not be used to support your J-1 spouse.
2. Do *not* begin work, including any on-campus employment, until you receive your Employment Authorization Document (EAD) from USCIS. The EAD is an identification card laminated in plastic, with your photograph and the dates you will be allowed to work. EAD cards are generally valid for one year and can be renewed; the application process takes 2-3 months.
3. You may work full- or part-time at any job for any employer. There is no legal limit to the amount that you may earn.
4. You are eligible to apply for a U.S. Social Security number *after* you receive your EAD card.

How to Apply:

Send the following items by certified mail (return receipt requested) to the USCIS in Vermont.

1. \$340 check or money order payable to USCIS
2. Completed Form I-765 (attached or available online); use eligibility code (c) (5) in item 16
3. Two passport photos of J-2 applicant, with name and I-94 number written lightly on the back
4. A letter requesting work permission (see sample below)
5. Photocopy of J-1's and J-2's Form DS-2019, each endorsed by J-1 sponsor within the last 30 days
6. Photocopy of J-1's and J-2's Form I-94 (both sides)
7. Photocopy of J-1's and J-2's passport ID pages

Sample J-2 Work Permission Letter

[Your Address]
[Date]

USCIS Vermont Service Center
75 Lower Weldon Street
St. Albans, VT 05479-0001

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to apply for J-2 work permission. I, [full name, I-94 admission number] am currently residing in the U.S. as the J-2 dependent of [give student/scholar's name and I-94 admission number]. He/She is a [student/scholar] at the University of Rochester and expects to complete the [Ph.D./M.S./Postdoctoral Research, etc.] program in [field] by [date].

My spouse's expenses are as follows: [provide details]
His/her financial support is as follows: [provide details]

We have enough money to live modestly, but there are not funds left over for expenses that are not essential. I would like to request work permission to [cover travel expenses, take an English course, etc.] *I understand that none of my earnings may be used for the support of my J-1 spouse.*

Sincerely,
[Your signature]