J-1 Immigration Checklist

Complete checklist in order to secure the proper visa and enter into the US easily and safely. Read carefully and complete in order.

☑ Be accepted to UMass Amherst and receive your DS-2019 Form

☐ Now that you have your DS-2019 form, you are able to make an appointment for a visa interview at your closest US Embassy. To do this, follow these steps:

1. **Pay the SEVIS fee (I-901) online.** Go to [http://www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com) and select PAY I-901 FEE. Be sure to print out the receipt at the end of the transaction. Keep this document safe, you will need it.

2. **Make your visa appointment.** Find your closest US embassy or consulate by going to [http://usembassy.gov](http://usembassy.gov). Then schedule a visa appointment for a non-immigrant visa. Fees may apply.

   *Note:* Visa applications submitted to US embassies located outside of your home country may not be accepted. Contact the US embassy directly for more information.

Canadian Citizens: You do not need to apply for a visa. Be prepared with your SEVIS fee, DS-2019, and passport at port of entry.

☐ Prepare the following documents to bring to your visa appointment:

- Signed **DS-2019 Form**
- Valid **Passport**
- UMass Amherst **Admission Letter**
- Financial support documents (I.e. bank statement or an assistantship offer letter)
- Proof that you have close ties to your country (such as ownership of properties, businesses, etc.)
- SEVIS fee receipt

☐ Receive your visa

- Double check your visa stamp for J-1 status
- Verify that your personal information is correct
- Gather your documents including the original DS-2019 form and passport with J-1 visa stamp for travel to the US. **You MUST travel with these documents in your carry-on luggage.** You will need them at US immigration to be allowed in the country.
- To be safe, also carry-on any financial documentation and the SEVIS fee receipt.

☐ Passing through Immigration - Travel to the United States for your program!

An immigration officer at the port of entry (immigration at the airport) will review your documents. You will receive an entry stamp on your passport and DS-2019 form. Make sure that the stamp indicates that you are on a J1 visa.

*Note:* You are allowed to enter the US up to 30 days prior to the start date on your DS-2019 form.

Questions? Visit the International Programs Office Website for more details: [www.umass.edu/ipo/iss/exchange-program](http://www.umass.edu/ipo/iss/exchange-program)