**Visa Application Checklist for J-1 Exchange Visitors**

- Before applying for a visa, select the website of the US consulate/embassy near you at [http://www.usembassy.gov/](http://www.usembassy.gov/)

- Make your appointment with the US embassy or consulate as soon as possible: [http://evisaforms.state.gov/SchedulingSystem.asp](http://evisaforms.state.gov/SchedulingSystem.asp)

- Fill out the Form DS-160 (Nonimmigrant Visa Application) [https://ceac.state.gov/GENNIV/default.aspx](https://ceac.state.gov/GENNIV/default.aspx)

- Pay SEVIS I-901 Fee at least a WEEK before your visa interview at the US Embassy or Consulate. Read the following links for more information on SEVIS I-901 Fee:
  1. [https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/](https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/)
  2. [https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/students/student/help.htm](https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/students/student/help.htm)

  ***PRINT YOUR CONFIRMATION AS A RECEIPT***

- Properly sign SEVIS DS-2019 Form—Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (J-1) Exchange Visitor Status

- Valid passport (Machine Readable Passport is required at U.S. Borders as of June 26, 2005.)

- Letter of admission/Invitation/Contract letter from Elon University

- Evidence of financial ability to meet expenses (e.g., bank statement)

- Evidence of English proficiency (e.g., TOEFL score) if applicable

- Evidence of residence abroad and intention to depart the U.S. after completion of the exchange program

- Be prepared to discuss, if you are asked, your strong ties to your home country (e.g., marriage certificate, housing/mortgage agreement, job assignment after J-1 period, a letter/contract letter from current employer, all with English translation) and your intention to depart the U.S. after completion of your degree

- One (1) photograph (see the format explained in nonimmigrant photograph requirements [http://travel.state.gov/visa/visaphotoreq/digitalimagereq/digitalimagereq_5327.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/visaphotoreq/digitalimagereq/digitalimagereq_5327.html))

- Machine Readable Visa (MRV) surcharge fee (check the fee with the U.S. Embassy/Consulate in your area)

- Visa reciprocity fee (if applicable) [http://travel.state.gov/visa/fees/fees_3272.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/fees/fees_3272.html)