

VISA APPLICATION CHECKLIST FOR J-1 EXCHANGE VISITORS

- o Before applying for a visa, select the website of the US consulate/embassy near you at <http://www.usembassy.gov/>
- o Make your appointment with the US embassy or consulate AS SOON AS POSSIBLE: <http://evisaforms.state.gov/SchedulingSystem.asp>
- o **Fill out the Form DS-160** (Nonimmigrant Visa Application) <https://ceac.state.gov/GENNIV/default.aspx>
- o 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/>
 2. <https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/students/student/help.htm>

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

- o Properly sign SEVIS DS-2019 Form— Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (J-1) Exchange Visitor Status
- o Valid passport (Machine Readable Passport is required at U.S. Borders as of June 26, 2005.)
- o Letter of admission/Invitation/Contract letter from Elon University
- o Evidence of financial ability to meet expenses (e.g., bank statement)
- o Evidence of English proficiency (e.g., TOEFL score) if applicable
- o Evidence of residence abroad and intention to depart the U.S. after completion of the exchange program
- o 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
- o One (1) photograph (see the format explained in nonimmigrant photograph requirements http://travel.state.gov/visa/visaphotoreq/digitalimagereq/digitalimagereq_5327.html)
- o Machine Readable Visa (MRV) surcharge fee (check the fee with the U.S. Embassy/Consulate in your area)
- o Visa reciprocity fee (if applicable) http://travel.state.gov/visa/fees/fees_3272.html

Reference: NAFSA Advisor's Manual (2004 release) published by NAFSA