

## J-2 Employment Authorization

J-2 work permits are obtained from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) through an application process that takes an average of 3-5 months to process. Employment may not begin until the J-2 has received the work permit, called the Employment Authorization Document (EAD).

The EAD allows the J-2 dependent to work in any job, full-time or part-time. Employment cannot extend beyond the end date on the EAD. Extensions of the EAD are possible, up to the end date on the DS-2019. Please note that the extension process also takes an average of 3-5 months, so plan ahead if employment needs to be continuous (without any gaps between work authorization periods).

International travel is not recommended while the J-2 EAD application is pending at USCIS. The application could be denied since the applicant does not hold a U.S. immigration status while abroad and is therefore ineligible for any status-associated benefits, including the EAD.

### **Application Procedure:**

You will submit the following to USCIS:

- [Form I-765](#)<sup>1</sup>
- A check or money order for \$410 made payable to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- 2 passport style photographs with a white background
- Copies of the passports and visas for the J-1 and the J-2
- Copy of the current DS-2019 of the J-1 and J-2
- Copies of Forms I-94 of both the J-1 and the J-2
- Letter from the J-2 stating why the employment is desired, indicating the source and amount of support for the principal participant, and specifically how the income derived from employment will not be used for the support of the J-1 exchange visitor. A J-2 does not need to demonstrate financial need to receive employment authorization.
- [Form G-1145](#)<sup>2</sup> (optional)
- Although not specified in the instructions to Form I-765, some applicants have also reported receiving Requests For Evidence (RFEs) asking the applicant to submit evidence of the J-2's relationship to the J-1 (e.g., marriage certificate for J-2 spouse or birth certificate for J-2 child).
- Photocopy of previous EAD card(s), if applicable

Once you have gathered all of your documentation you will mail your application:

If you are mailing using the U.S. Postal Service: USCIS P.O. Box 21281 Phoenix, AZ 85036	If you are mailing using FedEx, UPS, or DHL: USCIS Attn: NFB AOS 1820 E. Skyharbor Circle S, Suite 100 Phoenix, AZ 85034
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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.uscis.gov/i-765>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.uscis.gov/g-1145>

