



J-1 Visa Eligibility – Student Educational Requirements – Education Verification Letter

Introduction

J-1 visa regulations have specific requirements related to an applicant's education. For example, regulations require that applicants are currently or previously enrolled in academic institutions. In addition, schools must be "ministerially recognized". To help us ensure that the applicant's education meets requirements of the J-1 visa regulations, the visa sponsor requires an Education Verification Letter.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR J-1 VISA APPLICANT:

- Forward this document to your school to obtain the Education Verification Letter

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SCHOOL:

- Review the information below
- Complete all empty fields in the designated area on the second page
- Print this Education Verification Letter on official school letterhead*
- Sign and date the letter
- Scan and send it back to us * if you do not have official school stationary, please put a school stamp to proof authenticity.

Academic versus vocational programs:

J-1 visa regulations require that applicants are currently or previously enrolled in foreign academic institutions. An academic institution is any publicly or privately operated post-secondary institution that offers primarily academic programs. By contrast, vocational institutions prepare learners for jobs that are based in manual or practical, rather than academic, activities related to a specific trade, occupation, or vocation. *For the purpose of the J-1 visa regulations, an institution that offers primarily vocational or technical programs is not an academic institution and students and graduates of primarily vocational, rather than academic, institutions are not eligible to participate in intern and trainee programs.*

Ministerial recognition:

J-1 visa regulations also require that the applicant's study is "**ministerially-recognized**". In some countries, a Ministry of Education, Culture, or Science might be responsible for legislation affecting education and educational system oversight. In other countries, the recognizing authority for post-secondary education may be vested in states or cantons or in a confederation that recognizes certain educational institutions, and these institutions would then be considered "ministerially-recognized."

Dual education

There are also many ministerially-recognized post-secondary educational institutions abroad that integrate academic and work-based learning to prepare students for a successful transition to full-time employment (these are often called "dual education institutions"). Students earning (or who have earned) a B.A. equivalent or professional certificate from such dual education institutions abroad may be considered eligible for participation in the J-visa program if:

- their course of study is more than 50% academic and
- their ministerially-recognized educational institution is subject to official national, state, and municipal level checks-and-balances to ensure that short-term needs of employers do not distort broader academic goals within the course of study.

Below is the template for the Student Education Verification Letter.

1. Complete **all missing fields**
2. Print this letter on a **school letterhead**
3. **Sign and date** the letter
4. **Scan** the letter and email it back to the student

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

I hereby certify that **first, last name graduate has graduated from** the **name of educational program** at **name of school**. This program is post-secondary education and is ministerially-recognized by **name of national, state or municipal recognizing authority** as having an academic function. The type of degree is called **name of the degree (i.e. bachelor, license, associate, higher diploma, national diploma, PGD, E.S.)** and the program has a duration of **duration in years** years. The student's (expected) graduation date is **day and/or month, year**.

Signature of authorized school representative
Name and title of authorized school representative

Click **here to enter a date**.