Visitor Application for a J-1 Visa

1. General Guidelines:
Once a visitor has been invited by a professor to visit the University of California, Santa Barbara you must apply for a J-1 visa. Obtaining a visa is a lengthy process and we are seeing delays in the U.S. State Department issuing visas, so the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) recommends initiating the process 4 to 6 months prior to the date of the visit.

The application process is detailed at [Apply for DS-2019](#)

Please pay particular attention to the [financial requirements](#) and the [insurance requirements](#). J-1 exchange visitors' dependents (legally married spouse and unmarried children under the age of 21) can enter the U.S. as J-2 Dependents. Other family members (such as parents, siblings or domestic partners) are not eligible for J-2 status, but may be eligible to visit the U.S. as tourists with a B-2 visa.

The U.S. Department of State Exchange Visitor Program Welcome Brochure can be viewed [here](#). If you are not sure if you meet the requirements to be a J-1 Exchange Visitor, please contact the UCSB Office of International Students & Scholars.

Detailed information regarding the J-1 process can be found on the OISS [website](#).

Each visitor must provide funding for their stay in the U.S., funding for their lodging, and bring their own laptop.

2. Application Procedures
- The prospective visitor will work with the GEOG personnel team to apply for the DS-2019, which will then enable you to apply for the visa. Please be prepared to submit the required information and documents to the OISS International Scholar [UCSBGlobal](#) system. These will include biographical information, copy of the visitor's passport, the letter of invitation, evidence of highest education, proof of financial support, proof of English proficiency, among others.
- English proficiency must be demonstrated by a standardized test (TOEFL, IELTS) taken within the past 5 years, or by an interview with the sponsoring faculty.
- You will be invited to fill in your personal information and submit your documents in the [UCSBGlobal](#) system; this will be reviewed for accuracy by the Department of Geography, and then submitted to OISS for further review and approval.
- Once approved by OISS, a DS-2019 will be issued and shipped to the traveler by an overnight carrier. This document is necessary for visa application at a U.S. Consulate or

Embassy and must accompany the visitor when they travel. The visitor will be given instructions on how to pre-pay for the overnight shipment of the DS-2019.

- Please check with the consulate offices about the expected delays in processing the visa to make realistic travel arrangements. If there is a delay in receiving the visa or in travel arrangements and the visitor is not able to arrive within 30 days of the date on the DS-2019, they must apply for an amendment of the DS-2019. This request must be made at least 14 days prior to the expiration date of the DS-2019 to give the OISS sufficient time to process the amendment.
- It is advisable to begin looking for accommodations in Santa Barbara once the DS-2019 has been approved. Craigslist is an online site for finding local resources. Rooms in a private home are used extensively by visitors and students at UCSB and they generally run between $1000–$1500/month. They tend to be furnished, and have kitchen and laundry privileges.

The Santa Barbara area communities are:
- Isla Vista (closest to UCSB, within walking or biking distance)
- Goleta (adjacent to UCSB, about 5–15 minutes, biking or bus transportation necessary)
- Downtown Goleta (close to UCSB, but biking or bus transportation necessary)
- Santa Barbara (about 10–20 minutes from UCSB, bus or car transportation necessary)
- Montecito (about 20–30 minutes from UCSB, transportation necessary)
- Carpinteria (beachside community, about 30–40 minutes from UCSB, transportation)