



Exchange Visitor/Scholar Eligibility, Categories and Related Requirements

General Eligibility Requirements for all Scholars

- Scholar's invitation must be approved by the host department and International Services.
- Scholar must be a foreign national
- Scholar's discipline: must fit with our institution's goals and curriculum.
- Scholars selection: must be based on professional qualifications, scholarly accomplishments, goals for the program and their appropriateness to participate in the exchange program. The hosting department identifies prospective J-1 Scholars. This may be in consultation with exchange partner institutions abroad, or with other organizations or universities abroad, or via professional association and contacts (ie: conferences, collaborative research, professional meetings, etc.).
- Evidence of English language proficiency: degree from institution with English language instruction, TOEFL score of 213 or higher, recommendation of home institution, personal interview or observation, English as native language.
- Professional qualifications/ scholarly accomplishments Curriculum vitae, teaching/lecturing experience, professional publications and research, consulting experience, presentations, personal interview and recommendations may be considered in the selection process.

Exchange Visitor/ Scholar Categories and FGCU Eligibility

Professors and Research Scholars

Category Description: May engage in research, teaching, lecturing, observing, or consulting with their American colleagues at the institution. The minimum duration of stay is three weeks. The maximum duration is 3 years, including any extensions. Before the individual may return to the US to begin a new J-1 program, he/she must remain out of the US for at least 12 months. An exception applies only if the individual was a Short-term Scholar for no more than 6 months during the previous year.

FGCU Eligibility - Professors

All professors up through instructor level must have a minimum of a master's degree in an appropriate field of specialization; ranked faculty

must have a terminal degree (or highest degree appropriate in that field of specialization). Credentials must comply with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

FGCU Eligibility- Researchers:

Graduate Research professor: Doctoral degree or highest degree appropriate in field of specialization, demonstrated record of achievement in academic research, teaching, and service in field. Research Associate: Master's degree, demonstrated record of academic research achievement, or professional qualifications in field of specialization above those equivalent to the highest degree. Postdoctoral Fellow: doctoral degree and appropriate experience and training in specialization. Graduate Research Associate: admitted to graduate degree program, classified as degree seeking graduate student, completed minimum 30 graduate credit areas, meet requirements of graduate school. Graduate Research assistant: admitted to graduate degree program, (degree seeking) meet graduate school requirements. For researchers who may be classroom instructors, credentials must comply with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Short-term Scholar

Category description: a professor, research scholar, or person with similar education or accomplishments. May engage in research, lecturing, observing, consulting, training, or demonstrating a special skill; may participate in conferences, seminars, workshops or other events listed on the DS-2019. The duration of program is the time needed to complete the program objective. The minimum program duration of 3 weeks is waived for this category. The maximum duration of stay is 6 months. No program extension is permitted. A short-term scholar does not need to remain out of the US for 12 months before returning for another short-term scholar J-1 program.

FGCU Eligibility

Short Term scholars up through instructor level must have a minimum of a master's degree in an appropriate field of specialization; ranked faculty must have a terminal degree (or highest degree appropriate in that field of specialization, or professional qualifications in the field of specialization above those that would be equivalent to the highest degree). A demonstrated record of achievement in academic research, teaching or service may also be required for some positions. For scholars who may be classroom instructors, credentials must comply with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Specialist

Category Description: Specialists are “experts in a field of specialized knowledge or skill” who come to the US to observe, consult or demonstrate such skills. They should have education and/or training considered standard in the specialization, preferable highest degree or equivalent, as well as significant experience, honors, awards, achievements and demonstrated knowledge and expertise. (Professors, research scholars and short term scholars are excluded from this category). Minimum duration of stay is three weeks, maximum duration is one year.

FGCU Eligibility

Specialist must be able to demonstrate their expertise here and the university must be able to provide any required resources (ie: facilities, equipment, etc.). Experience in lecturing, training or consulting may also be required depending on the specific activities planned for the specialist. For specialists who might also be classroom instructors, credentials must comply with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Related Requirements

All scholars must provide evidence of financial support appropriate for program. Generally, a J-1 scholar may not be primarily self-supported.

A J-1 scholar may be paid by the university host department for the primary activity (ie: teach/research/specialist) or they may be funded by their home governments, employer in home country or other organization.

Scholars may not hold tenure positions. All scholars must maintain health insurance, at all times, that meets the requirements of the Exchange Visitor Program and Florida Gulf Coast University. A scholar who willfully fails to comply with this regulation is subject to immediate termination from the program

If the scholar is also being admitted to a degree program at the university, the applicant would have to meet the established university admission criteria, which include: academic qualification, English language proficiency, financial support

and immigration clearance. Admission to a course of study must be approved by the hosting department and International Services.

The hosting department should actively seek reciprocity in the exchange program by facilitating the reciprocating exchange of FGCU students, faculty or staff abroad through partnerships and professional or educational activities.

Limitations and Responsibilities

- Exchange Visitors may not be appointed to tenure track positions
- Exchange Visitors may not participate in programs that involve patient contact
- Exchange Visitors may teach, observe, lecture, study, research collaborate demonstrate or perform other related activities as outlined on the DS-2019 form
- Extension of the duration of stay for the exchange visitor may only be done in writing, in advance of the expiration date on the DS-2019. Duration of stay is limited per the program regulations.