



J-1 Scholar Coordinator Meeting

Fall 2024

International Student and Scholar Services

Global Education Office

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) in GEO

2120 Mesa Vista Hall, MSC06 3850

Tel: (505) 277-4032

Email: iadvisor@unm.edu

website: ISSS.unm.edu



Global Education Office/ISSS

ISSS Advisors

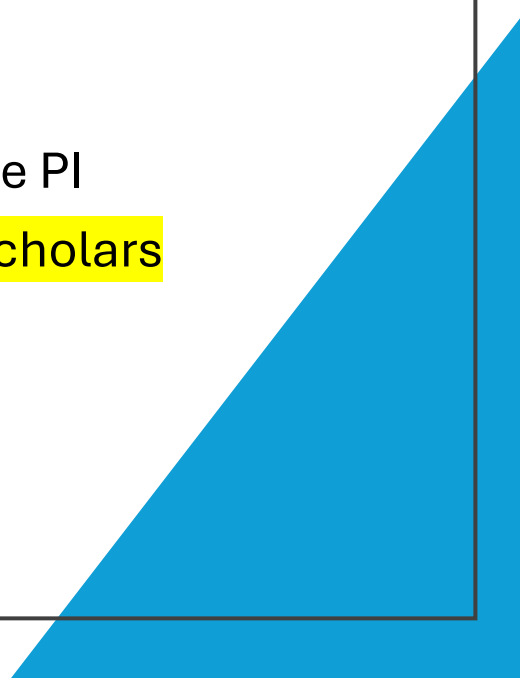
- Phillip Gill phigill@unm.edu
- Linda Melville lmelvill@unm.edu
- Melissa Aragon melissaaragon@unm.edu
- Fiore Bran Aragon fsbran@unm.edu
- Lily Xu nxu@unm.edu

GEO Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm

Lobby Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm



Meeting Agenda

- Department of State (DOS) Initiatives and Issues
 - Updates from ISSS/GEO
 - Incoming scholar process review
 - J-1 Bars on repeat participation: What to ask the PI
 - Review of Department Responsibilities for J1 scholars
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Department of State (DOS)

- Emailing DS-2019s
 - still need to be wet signatures
 - still not supposed to email widely
- Increased interest in reporting on the well-being of scholars
- Please report to GEO any concerns or incidents with Scholars (severe injury or illness, criminal issues, disciplinary issues, anything bringing “ill-repute”)

Overall issues affecting international scholars



Geopolitical
events



Consular service
variability and
security checks



Timely visa
appointments
(STILL an issue)



Updates
from
ISSS/GEO

International Student and Scholar Services

A Unit of the Global Education Office



[Home](#) [Students](#) [Scholars](#) [Life in ABQ](#) [Programs & Events](#) [Contact ISSS](#) [FAQ's](#)

[GEO Units](#)

Contact ISSS

Advisor Drop-in hours: Monday-Friday, 1 – 3 pm (in-person or [Zoom](#))

Scholar Individual Appointments:

<https://calendly.com/unm-geo/j1scholaradvising?month>

Scholar Orientation (Tuesdays 10:00am about 1 hour):

<https://calendly.com/unm-geo/j-1-scholar-orientation?month>

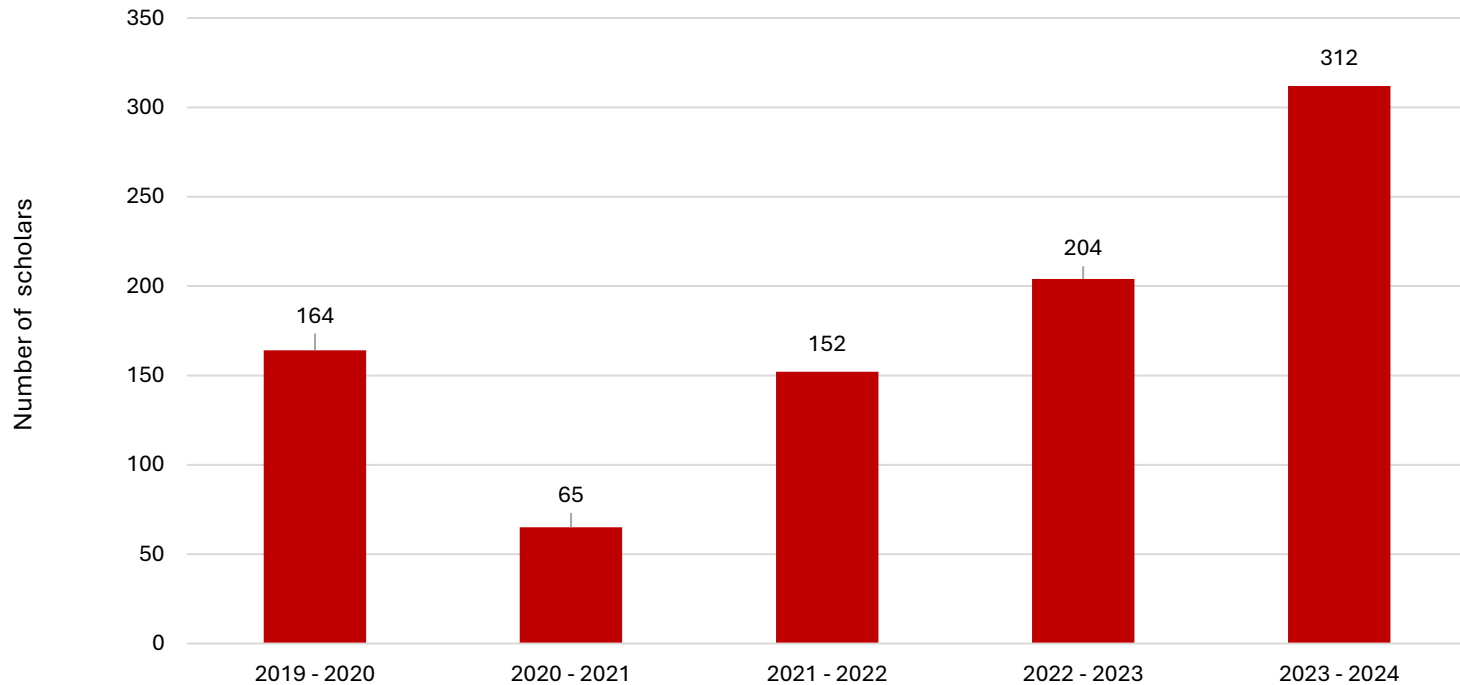
Requests and other contact info:

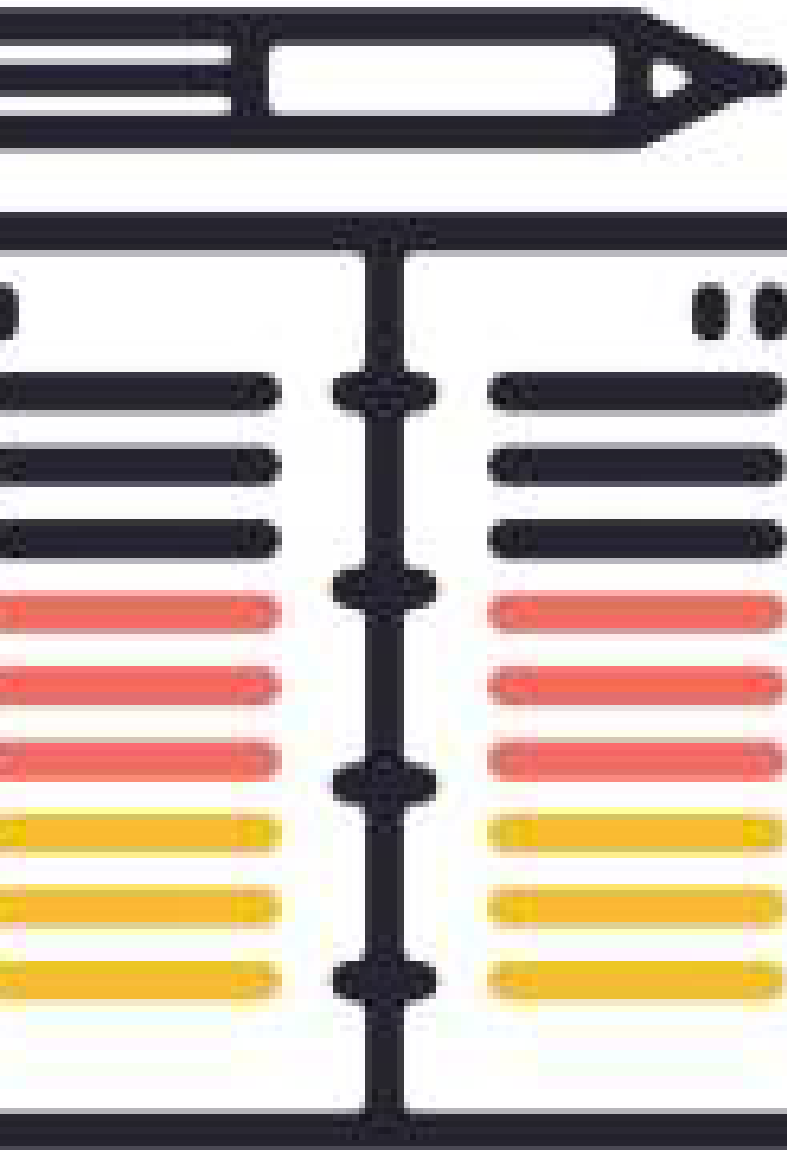
<https://iss.unm.edu/contact-iss/contact-iss.html>

ISSS Update

- New Advisors: Fiore Bran Aragon, Lily Xu
- Post-doc appreciation week presentations
- Hiring in other statuses (H1B, PR): information at: <https://vrapiweeks.com/unm/>
- Link on our website Scholars/Department info/Other Visa Types: <https://iss.unm.edu/scholars/department-info/visa-types.html>
- What can we do to assist you?

International Scholar Numbers are Increasing





Incoming Scholar Process

Review

Scholar Application Issues: Correct “Type of Appointment”

Type of Appointment*

- Begin a new program (UNM DS-2019 will be issued for J1 scholar's visa application)
- Beginning Fulbright Scholar (no DS-2019 will be issued from UNM)
- Extend J1 for current UNM scholar
- Transfer to UNM from another institution (time at previous institution counts toward 5 year maximum)

- New (not currently in the US) - \$200
- Fulbright scholar: need info to create Banner record (no fee) - \$0
- Extend (here at UNM, needs more time) - \$50
- Transfer (at another US institution now) - \$200

Scholar Application Issues: Correct “Category”

Program Information

Dates of Appointment

(Start date should be at least three months from today)

Start Date*

09/30/2024

End Date*

12/13/2024

Category of J1 Exchange Visitor: *

- Research Scholar (6 months to 5 years) - extensions up to 5 years possible
- Professor (6 months to 5 years) - cannot be a tenure-track position, extensions up to 5 years possible
- Short-term Scholar (6 months maximum) - no extensions after 6 months
- Specialist (3 weeks to 1 year)

- This selection is critical the scholar
- It determines what they can do in the future
- And may subject them to “bars” on future participation (next section)

Scholar Application Issues: After Creation and Before Arrival

When you submit this application, the scholar will automatically receive an email asking them to complete their portion of the application. Please be sure the scholar email is correct or they will not receive the application link. After the scholar submits all required information, you will be copied on the confirmation email to the scholar along with all relevant attachments.

BEFORE arrival, UNM departments MUST contact the unit responsible for creating a Banner role (paid employee role, visiting colleague, Letter of Academic Title, etc.) with the relevant documents. This is not done by GEO.

Submit

- “SUBMIT” sends the link to the scholar (check SPAM)
- If they can’t access, try a different browser!
- We create a Banner ID but HR/OAP must create a ROLE!
- Date changes:
 - Can’t be changed in the App, please email us
 - Don’t complete a new form!

Email Scholar Receives

- This email to scholar after you “Submit”
- They are instructed to respond in 1 week, but they can take longer.
- Ask scholar to Look for this email!
- Do not create a new application!
- Email if the scholar is really stuck – it may be a technical issue.

The University of New Mexico Application has been Received!



donotreply@unm.edu

To: Carree Connelly



Please Read Carefully!

How do I complete the Application?

- Click on the link **UNM Application**. You must do so within **1 week** of receipt of this email.
- You will be required to upload copies of documents for your situation (passport, finances, etc.) you will not be able to complete the application until you have all the required documents.
- Once your application is complete, click Submit and wait for further instructions

Complete your Application using
the link below:
UNM Application

Thank you,
Global Education Office
University of New Mexico

Next Steps

- Scholars are emailed DS-2019 with Pre-Arrival Information
- Emailing original DS-2019s is allowed, but they **MUST** print the paper for the visa appointment and to come into the US!
- Scholars apply for the visa and enter the US

Scholar Website Information

The image shows a screenshot of the UNM International Student Services website. The top navigation bar includes links for Students, Scholars, Life in ABQ, Programs & Events, Contact ISSS, and FAQ's. A dropdown menu is open under the 'Scholars' link, listing various categories and their sub-items.

Students ▾ Scholars ▾ Life in ABQ ▾ Programs & Events ▾ Contact ISSS FAQ's ▾

Coming to UNM

- Scholar Application Process
- Visa Process
- Arrival Information
- Orientation Requirements
- Arrival Resources

Health Care & Insurance

- Health Insurance
- What To Do When You Get Sick
- Mental Health
- Health Resources

Immigration & Travel

- Legal Status
- Employment
- Dependents
- Travel Requirements
- Leaving UNM

Department Information

- Department Overview
- Inviting a Scholar
- Responsibilities
- Other Visa Types
- Forms

Taxes

- Compliance
- Federal
- State
- FICA/ Social Security

E-Packet for Scholars

- Scholars receive an e-packet with orientation information prior to arrival at UNM. Information includes:
 - Housing
 - Health insurance
 - Driver's License
 - Getting Involved at UNM
 - SSA information
 - Avoiding scams





J-1 SCHOLAR ORIENTATION

Tuesdays at 10:00 am

zoom meeting!

*Newly arrived scholars schedule their
orientation here:*

<https://calendly.com/unm-geo/j-1-scholar-orientation?month=2023-11>

J-1 “*Bars*” on Repeat Participation



What to ask the PI?

12-month Bar for Entry in J1 scholar status

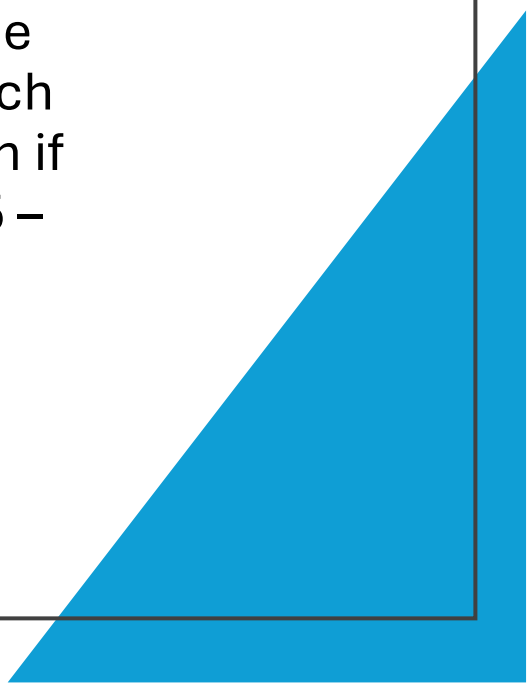
A potential visiting scholar is not eligible to begin as a new J-1 scholar if he or she was physically present in any J status (including J-2 status) for all or part of the 12-month period immediately preceding the date of the program commencement.

There are 3 exceptions:

- 1) J-1 Exchange Visitor transfer to a new program sponsor
- 2) Presence in J status for less than 6 months
- 3) Presence in J status as a Short-Term Scholar

2 Year (24 month) Bar on Repeat Participation for J-1 Research Scholars/Professors

If a J scholar completes a program of any length, and the J record is ended, the scholar will not be permitted to return to the U.S. in the J-1 Research Scholar/Professor category for 24 months (even if they only stayed for less than 6 months of the 5 – year maximum!)



What to ask the PI?

- What is the minimum length of time this scholar will stay?
- If close to 6 months:
 - PI should ask the prospective scholar about future plans for work in the US (especially if they plan to pursue a post-doc)
 - If they do plan to do a post-doc; the short-term scholar category (max of 6 months) is safest, but they may need to travel out and reenter with a second short-term stay to complete their work
- If the scholar will stay for at least a year, make sure the PI decides if they plan to extend the scholar BEFORE the year is over
- Another option for someone who MUST leave the US and return is to keep the J record open with an “Out-of-country” record while they are away.



212 (e) Home Residency Requirement

- Certain J-1 Scholars are subject to a two-year home country physical presence requirement (NOT a “BAR”)
- Scholars can be subject to this requirement if:
 - Financial support was provided in whole or part by the US government or their home country government, or;
 - Their occupation is on the “skills list” for their home country

J-1 Scholars who are subject to the home residency requirement are:

- Prevented from changing to any other type of visa from within the U.S.
- Required to return to their home country for 2 years before they would be permitted to enter the US with an H, L, or permanent resident status.



Review of Department Responsibilities for J Scholars

Verification of English Proficiency

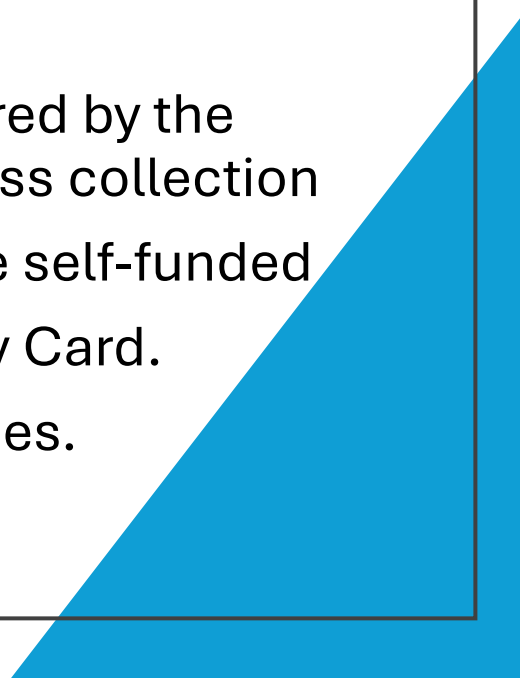
- Must have “sufficient proficiency in the English language” to :
 - participate in his or her program and
 - to function on a day-to-day basis”
- Objective measurements: (if not native speaker)
 - Recognized English language test
 - Attendance at an English-speaking Higher ed institution or English language school OR
 - Documented interview conducted by the sponsor (please be sure that someone is conducting a proper interview)



Confirm Health Insurance

- Inform scholar if they will or will not receive insurance for their appointment
- J1 Scholars are required to have health insurance for themselves and their dependents for their entire stay
- Requirements include medivac and repatriation
- Minimum J1 insurance requirements provide LESS coverage than the ACA plans, but include medivac and repatriation (required)
- UNM employee plans include J1 minimum requirements

Ensure attendance at ISSS Orientation Which Covers:

- ✓ Responsibilities for maintaining valid J-1 status.
 - ✓ 12 and 24-month bars and the 212(e) Home Residency Requirements that affect their future plans.
 - ✓ Immigration document review
 - ✓ Validation of their entry in J status as required by the federal government upon arrival and address collection
 - ✓ Insurance information for scholars who are self-funded
 - ✓ Instructions to apply for the Social Security Card.
 - ✓ Information about campus and GEO services.
- 
- A large blue triangle is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, pointing towards the top right.

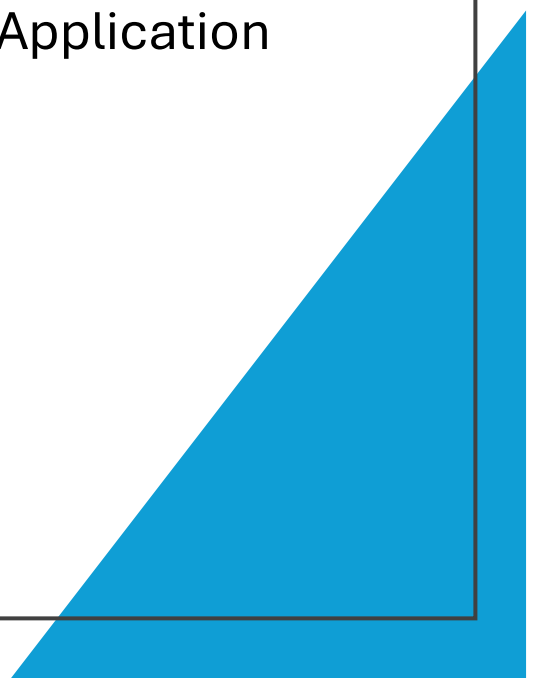
Inform GEO of Departure

- Critical for compliance with federal regulations
- **Contact GEO if the J-1 Scholar leaves more than 30 days before the program end date so we can end the record!**
- A delay in reporting a scholar's departure delays the ability of the scholar to start accruing time to overcome the 12 and 24-month Bars if they have them.
- If they plan to return to UNM to resume work, there is a way to keep the record active via an "Out of Country" process



New Coordinators!

A separate training is needed to review the basics of the Bridge USA program and UNM/GEO's DS-2019 Application form



Thank you for all your work to support our International Scholars!



Please do not hesitate to contact us!

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