



## J-1 VISA INTERVIEW TIPS AND ADVICE

This document contains information to help prepare you for your J-1 visa interview. Please read the information below carefully. If you have any questions that are not covered in the material provided, please do not hesitate to contact us at [internships@icls.com](mailto:internships@icls.com).

### VISA APPLICATION

#### Documents to Take to Your VISA Interview:

1. DS-160 Confirmation
2. SEVIS Fee Confirmation
3. Visa Payment Receipt
4. DS-2019
5. DS-7002
6. Passport
7. Financial Statement / Proof
8. Photographs (follow the US Embassy guidelines for submitting photos)

#### **WHO IS MY EMERGENCY CONTACT IN THE UNITED STATES?**

- ICLS Emergency Customer Service Line: +1 202 270 9280, Email: [internships@icls.com](mailto:internships@icls.com)
- ICLS Intern/Trainee Program Coordinator: Ricki Schwab, +1 202 839 5524, Email: [rschwab@icls.edu](mailto:rschwab@icls.edu)
- ICLS Intern/Trainee Director: Jessica Hines, +1 202 991 6010, Email: [jhines@icls.edu](mailto:jhines@icls.edu)

#### **HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR VISA INTERVIEW?**

1. Read your Individual Training/Internship Placement Plan (DS-7002) and ICLS welcome letter. Be ready to answer the questions related to the J-1 visa, your Host Company, your Sponsor (ICLS), and the purpose of your trip to the U.S.
2. Be prepared to answer questions about what you'll be doing in the US and why you need the training.
3. Read about the Intern/Trainee program to understand J-1 program goals and objectives.
4. Read the U.S. State Department's J-1 Exchange Visitor Program Welcome brochure or visit its website <http://j1visa.state.gov/> to learn about J-1 visa guidelines.

#### **IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER**

Overall, you should show your commitment to returning to your home country at the end of your program. Bringing documents (i.e. property records, bank statements) that demonstrate your financial ties to your country is a good idea.

Remember: the J-1 visa is not a working visa. You must not say that you are going to the US to work. It is important to know that you are going to the US to participate in an internship or on-the-job training in order to learn new skills and knowledge in your career field.

- Be confident, positive, and honest when you answer the questions.
- Use good body language -- look at the interviewer's eyes when you answer the questions.
- Smile if possible and appropriate.
- Know that your US sponsor is ICLS.

Verify that **ALL** information is the same in **EVERY** document you provide.

## VOCABULARY TO USE OR TO AVOID

### Do **NOT** use vocabulary or expressions such as:

"Work," "I plan to work," "I would like to earn a salary," "I will stay after the training is over," or "I will look for a job in the US"

### Instead, **USE** expressions such as:

"On-the-job training," "professional training," "internship," "hands-on training," "training in my educational field," "train in business skills," "learn American business culture and work environment," "make American friends" and "get American life experience."

## SAMPLE QUESTIONS

Please note: You may or may not be asked the following questions. Being very well prepared will add to your confidence during your interview and increase your chances of obtaining a J-1 visa.

### **BE PREPARED TO GIVE CLEAR AND HONEST ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS SUCH AS:**

1. What are you planning to do in the US? (mention your internship training program)
2. Why did you choose this program? (to participate in a training program and learn American business culture through an internship)
3. Who is your host company (or employer)?
4. What will you do in the US? (review your training plan)
5. Where will you work or intern in the US? (Show your training plan-DS 7002)
6. Who is your sponsor? (ICLS)
7. What will you do after the internship training? (share your plans once you return home)
8. Why are you applying for a J-1 training visa?
9. Who will pay for your program? (you, your parents, government grants, school scholarship)

## REASONS FOR VISA APPLICATION DENIAL

### The Embassy can deny the visa if it is suspected that:

1. Fraudulent documents are submitted, or false information is provided
2. The applicant's plans are different from the plans described in his/her Training Plan and the Intern/Trainee program.
3. The applicant plans to stay in the U.S. after the J-1 visa has expired and the training is over.
4. The applicant plans non-training related activities, such as employment (work) and/or becomes an illegal resident and worker.

The U.S. Embassy may or may not ask you to provide additional information before deciding to issue or not to issue a visa. Additional information is important to help them to make a final decision. Applicants are advised to contact ICLS in case they are asked to provide additional information related to your program

ICLS and its partners will make every effort to help you with collecting the right information. However, ICLS does not guarantee that an applicant will be issued a J-1 visa. Only the US Embassy and its Visa Consulate can make such a decision, and ICLS has no control over the final decision. If the applicant is denied a visa, they may choose to apply a second time.

**GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR INTERVIEW! WE KNOW YOU WILL DO WELL!**