**Program Extensions**

**How long can I stay?**

The responsible officer may extend a participant’s program to its maximum regulatory duration. The maximum regulatory duration is the limit imposed by regulations specific to a program category or to a program sponsor’s designation.

If extended, a new Form DS-2019 reflecting the extension will be issued to the participant.

**Maximum stays:**
- **Student Non-Degree:** 24 months
- **Student Degree-Seeking:** As needed
- **Student Intern:** 12 months
- **Research Scholar/Professor:** 5 years
- **Short-Term Scholar:** 6 months

If the extension is mutually agreed upon by the hosting department and the J-1 scholar, and the program duration maximum has not been met, the hosting department should contact jinfo@unt.edu for a DS-2019 Extension Request Form. DS-2019 must be extended BEFORE the current DS-2019 ends.

Requirements for the extension include:
- Proof of funding for the extension timeframe
- New Department Invitation Letter
- Extension of Health Insurance

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**30-Day Grace Period**

Following the completion of their program, (the period defined on Form DS-2019), United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) allows participants a 30-day travel period. This travel period is commonly referred to as the “grace period.” During this 30-day grace period, participants are no longer in J-visa status and are under the jurisdiction of USCIS.

USCIS grants this period to allow participants to settle their affairs and to prepare to return to their home countries. Program participants may not work and may not continue and/or complete exchange activities. Participants may travel within the United States. Travel outside the U.S. is discouraged as participants may not be permitted reentry.

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**Executive Orders (EO) Regarding Immigration**

**Immigration Information**

**Your Rights as a Nonimmigrant Visa Holder**

Nonimmigrant Visa Holder Information

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Spring 2018

Welcome to another exciting year with UNT International!
UNT’s Department of Learning Technologies hosted a pre-Thanksgiving celebration for their visiting scholars on November 16, 2017. Five J-1 Scholars had the opportunity to present their research and share their experiences at UNT. Faculty provided the food and refreshments, including a 26 pound turkey! Many thanks to the College of Engineering for their strong support of UNT’s J-1 Exchange Visitor Program.
My name is Tony and I am a J-1 Student Intern that has made my way from Norway. I was lucky to be able to take an abroad program through my school in Norway. And I landed here at The University of North Texas where I am researching the American take on Behavior Analysis and working over at Kristin Farmer’s Autism Center doing a 3 month program for my bachelor’s degree in Social Education. My time here at UNT has been amazing. I have met a lot of different people with a lot of different meanings and opinions. That was one of my main goals that I wanted to see while I was here. To get other opinions and meanings on how people with disabilities are handled here versus in Norway. Unfortunately I am here for only three months.

I would like to take a full semester or even a year to see the country and meet more people. Here in Denton you will meet a lot of friendly people, if you come from Europe over here you will be surprised how friendly people are. They will take care of you and give you the full American College lifestyle. People here are curious about other cultures and it has been a blast to show and tell them about the Norwegian culture and how different it is. When it comes to sports I have never really been a fan, but after experiencing the Super Bowl 2018, in an American home and experience that passion people have for their teams has been cool to see. I have tasted a lot of American food and I have made a lot of new friends that I will for sure have contact with for the rest of my life. I am super happy that I took the leap of faith into this decision of coming here all alone, have learned a lot, seen Texas and I am grateful for the opportunity that UNT has given me to be here.

Thank you, Tony! We are happy to have you here at UNT!