

Comparing F-1 and J-1 Student Visa Statuses

Type	Visa Type	Eligibility & Use at W&M	Process	Funding	Dependents (spouses & children)	Employment eligibility	SSN	Additional Info:
F-1	Student	<p>-Most W&M international students study on F-1 visas.</p> <p>-F-1 students are classified as out-of-state for tuition purposes.</p>	<p>-Student applies through Admissions.</p> <p>-Once accepted, department requests I-20 from Reves Center.</p> <p>-Reves Center sends I-20 to student.</p> <p>-Student applies for F-1 visa.</p>	<p>-When requesting I-20, must show 1 year of funding for F-1 student and F-2 dependents.</p>	<p>-Dependents eligible to apply for F-2 visas.</p> <p>-F-2 dependents are not eligible to work or study (begin a degree program).</p> <p>-If a dependent of an F-1 student wishes to begin a degree program, one option is for them to apply as an F-1 student.</p>	<p>-On-campus jobs</p> <p>-CPT work authorization for internships related to major</p> <p>-OPT work authorization (12 months) for jobs and internships related to major. Typically used post-graduation.</p> <p>-OPT STEM Extension (29 months) of additional OPT for students with some STEM ma-</p>	<p>-Eligible to apply for SSN when employed or on OPT.</p>	<p>-F-1 status offers more flexibility for changing majors or programs</p> <p>-In F-1, it is possible to reverse matriculate (ie change from a PhD program to a masters)</p>
J-1	Exchange visitor	<p>-W&M exchange students study on J-1 visas, and cannot study on F-1 visas.</p> <p>-Degree seeking international students can request J-1 status only if 33% or more of their funding comes from W&M, an organization, or government.</p> <p>-J-1 students are classified as out-of-state for tuition purposes.</p>	<p>-Student applies through Admissions.</p> <p>-Once accepted, department requests DS-2019 from Reves Center.</p> <p>-Reves Center sends DS-2019 to student.</p> <p>-Student applies</p>	<p>-When requesting DS-2019, must show 1 year of funding for J-1 student and J-2 dependents.</p>	<p>-Dependents eligible to apply for J-2 visas.</p> <p>-J-2 dependents are eligible to apply for work authorization with Immigration (\$380 fee). They can also take classes, or begin a degree program.</p>	<p>-On-campus jobs</p> <p>-AT work authorization (maximum of 18-36 months, depending on degree program) for jobs and internships related to major. Can be used during and/or following the degree program.</p>	<p>-Eligible to apply for SSN.</p>	<p>-J-1s & J-2s may have a 2 year home residency requirement for their citizenship country after their J-1 ends.</p> <p>-May also have a 12 month bar from being a J-1 professor or research scholar.</p>