



Effective April 27, 2023, International Student Services is permitted to use digital signatures and transmit Form DS-2019 electronically.

The U.S. Department of State announced the publication of an Interim Final Rule that permits designated sponsors for the Exchange Visitor Program (EVP) to digitally sign and electronically transmit the J-1 DS-2019 form, effective April 27, 2023. With this change, sponsors like UW-Madison can either

- print and physically sign paper forms in ink, scan and save them, and electronically transmit them (e.g., via email).
- OR sponsors may use digital signature software to sign Forms DS-2019 and then electronically transmit them.

After receiving the DS-2019s electronically, **J-1 visitors will still need to physically print and hand-sign their own DS-2019s prior to visa interviews or travel to the United States.**

If you have already completed an UEMS/EShip Global request and do not require an original Form DS-2019, you may cancel your shipment request. Should you require an original Form DS-2019, please contact International Student Services with your request.

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Sponsors may transmit Forms DS–2019 electronically, including directly to exchange visitors. Sponsors without digital signature capacity may print and sign forms in ink (as they do now, except that blue ink is no longer required), scan the forms (e.g., into portable document format (PDF) files), and then transmit them electronically. The Department of State notes that these regulatory changes will have no impact on SEVIS functionality or the number of Forms DS–2019 allotted to sponsors.