International Faculty and Staff Services
INTERNATIONAL DIVISION
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

J-1 Scholar and J-2 Dependent Expenses

The U.S. Department of State (DOS) requires exchange visitor program sponsors to verify that J-1 exchange visitors (J-1 scholar) and any accompanying dependent(s) have adequate financial support for the duration of their J-1 program.

If a J-1 scholar receives a salary from the University of Wisconsin - Madison, the department must pay at least the minimum salary as specified in the Office of Human Resource (OHR), Compensation and Titling website (http://www.ohr.wisc.edu/compensation). If the position is not full-time, the department must pay the appropriate percentage of the full-time salary. If the part-time salary is less than the minimum required amount specified below, then the J-1 Scholar must provide documentation to IFSS that he/she has access to additional personal or other funds to meet or exceed the required minimum for financial support.

A J-1 scholar can have one source of financial support, multiple sources of financial support, or have sources of financial support change over time. Examples of financial support can be J-1 scholar's salary from abroad, personal bank statements, letters regarding scholarships, or fellowships. The J-1 scholar must always show proof of the required financial support which must meet or exceed the amounts set for the University of Wisconsin–Madison's J-1 exchange visitor program.

Additionally, there is a mandatory health insurance requirement to the J-1 exchange visitor program. IFSS partners with the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) office to ensure that J-1 scholars have UW-Madison approved health insurance coverage. J-1 scholars on an unpaid appointment are required to register with the SHIP Office and purchase SHIP for themselves and any J-2 visa dependents. J-1 scholars that are covered by health insurance that meets one of the criteria listed on the Waiver Application you can file a qualifying waiver at the SHIP office. **If you do not qualify for a waiver, you are required to enroll in SHIP**. Please review the current Waiver Application for more details.

The total amount required for financial support is a combination of the SHIP premiums PLUS the value of the living expenses. Please refer to the chart below to determine the minimum financial support for a J-1 Scholar.

Amount set for living expenses:

J-1 Scholar: $2,249.00/month
J-2 Spouse: $857.00/month
J-2 Child: $643.00/month for first child; $429.00/month for each additional child

*SHIP premiums are not payable on a monthly basis. SHIP premiums are payable on an annual or half-yearly basis.	SHIP Insurance*	Living Expenses	Monthly Total	6-Month Total	12-Month Total
Scholar Only**	$182.00	$2,249.00	$2,431.00	$14,586.00	$29,172.00
Scholar + Spouse	$445.00	$3148.00	$3,593.00	$21,558.00	$43,116.00
Scholar + 1 Child	$394.00	$2,924.00	$3,318.00	$19,908.00	$39,816.00
Scholar + Spouse + 1 Child	$688.00	$3,824.00	$4,512.00	$27,072.00	$54,144.00
Scholar + Spouse + 2 Children	$688.00	$4,274.00	$4,962.00	$29,772.00	$59,544.00
Scholar + Spouse + 3 Children	$688.00	$4,725.00	$5,413.00	$32,478.00	$64,956.00