

# SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS: J-1 vs H-1B

## H-1B

## J-1

### DURATION

- Maximum duration is 6 years
- Can request up to 3 years at a time for each petition
- Minimum one day
- May be extended beyond 6 years by reclaiming time spent abroad or if at certain stage of "green card" processing (labor certification pending one year, or approved I-140).

- Limited 5 years - Research Scholar or Professor
- Limited 6 months – Short-term Scholar
- Limited 1 year – Specialist
- Limited 1 year – Student Intern
- Minimum stay – 3 weeks (not for short-term)
- There is **NO** extension allowed beyond the time limits listed above

### PROCESSING TIME

- At least 1 to 7 months
- Premium processing is possible for an additional \$2500 fee payable to DHS, reducing (final step) USCIS processing to 15 calendar days.

- 7 - 10 days to issue DS-2019 form from the submission of complete application packet.
- If visa app is needed, can take several months.
- Department should submit application 3 months in advance but no later than 2 month.

### FUNDING SOURCE

- UGA funding must be guaranteed for length of H-1B time requested

- U.S. or Home government
- Self-funded
- UGA funded
- Outside agency funding

### FUNDING MINIMUM

- Must pay the Actual Wage or Prevailing Wage, whichever is higher

- Must show proof of sufficient funds in the amount of at least \$1900 per month for each month in the U.S.
- Additional funding needed for each dependent

### COSTS AND FEES

- Government Application fee = \$460 Required by any application (initial, amendment, or extension, etc.)
- Government Anti-Fraud Fee = \$500.00. Only required for "New 'initial' Employment"
- Government Premium Processing Fee = \$2,500.00 (not always required)
  - Guarantees a response from USCIS in 15 calendar days
  - Only speeds up USCIS process, not UGA or DOL processes
  - Can be paid by applicant, but only by applicant if salary exceeds prevailing wage and is necessitated by personal to expedite
- Internal IS Processing Fee = \$929
- Consular Visa Application Fee = \$160.00 (paid by scholar)

- SEVIS fee = \$220.00 (paid by scholar)
- Visa Application Fee = \$160.00 (paid by scholar)
- International Scholar & Compliance Fee (ISCF) = \$134 per year (50% UGA funding) \$224 per year (less than 50% UGA funding) – (increases 2% each year) (paid by scholar or department)
- Internal IS Processing Fee = \$185 – (Initial or Transfer)
- Internal IS Processing Fee = \$122 – (Extension)
- Health insurance costs
- Living costs (at least \$1900 per month)
- Travel costs