Options for Hosting/Hiring Prospective Foreign National Faculty and Researchers

	J-1 Professor/Research Scholar Categories	H-1B
Sponsorship	Program sponsorship – under auspices of U.S. Department of State (DOS)	Employer is the sponsor
Purpose	Exchange Visitor Program established by the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961. The purpose of the Act is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchanges. Educational and cultural exchanges assist the Department of State in furthering the foreign policy objectives of the United States. (22 CFR 62.1)	Specialty occupation
Regulatory authorization	22 CFR 62; 8 CFR 214.2 (j)	8 CFR 214.2(h); .700-.80020 CFR Part 655, Subpart H
Regulatory minimum education requirements	Bachelors degree	Bachelors degree in position-related field
Immigrant classification	Nonimmigrant category – generally means that when the individual applies for the visa; must have the intent to return to the home country following program participant; makes permanent residency applications more difficult	Dual intent category – the individual may have immigrant or nonimmigrant intent
Duration	5-year maximum participation; no further extensions possible	6-year maximum authorization eligibility
		May "recapture" time out of U.S. during authorization
		Unlimited extensions after approved I-140 (Permanent Residency sponsorship)
Full-time Activity	Required by institutional policy	Required by institutional policy
Special conditions	Section 212(e): 2-year home stay requirement if (1) the country has a home skills list and the skill/areas of expertise is listed or (2) government funding is used; to directly support the visitor: cannot change status in U.S.; cannot return in H-1B or other dual ¦ ling of an amended petition before	
changes can be implemented		
Employer termination prior to authorization end, employer responsibility for reasonable cost of return transportation to the last place of foreign domicile		
Optional orientation offered		
Salary must meet higher of actual or prevailing wage		
	y apply for employment authorization in one-year increments ($410 filing fee, $85 biometrics fee; 3-month or longer processing time by USCIS)*	No spousal employment eligibility as a dependent
Fees, exclusive of visa application and related fees payable at US consulate processing	ISSS Processing Fee: $400 for initial; $250 for extensions	ISSS Processing Fee: $250
	SEVIS fee $220 (employer optional)	USCIS Processing fees for initial: $960; $460 for extensions. Optional premium processing: $2,805 for processing within 15 calendar days

NOTE: Prospective Foreign National faculty and researchers refers to UAF tenure/non-tenure-track faculty, research and post-doc positions.
This is a general, overview of the J-1 and H-1B requirements. Complete descriptions of requirements and processes are available at the ISSS website: https://www.uaf.edu/isss/info-departments/index.php

Other employment-based options: E-3 - Citizens of Australia; TN (Trade NAFTA) - Citizens of Canada and Mexico

*Spousal earnings cannot be used for family support.

Fees are current as of February 2024