



# Quarterly Report

# In this issue...

## Welcome to the International Exchange Center

The International Exchange Center fosters the exchange of culture, ideas, and knowledge through the sponsorship of the J-1 visa in the trainee and intern categories and the organization of periodic study tours to various cities around the world.

- Meet our Participants
- Host Company Spotlight: Seattle Stair and Design
- IEC by the Numbers
- Report: J-1 Alumni Impact Survey
- Online Resources
- The J-1 Visa Holder in the Workplace

Cover Image:  
*"Profile of the Indian Chief  
Tammany by Delaware River,  
NJ/PA"* by J-1 Trainee, Esther Tsai

# Meet our participants...



## Anthony Mulloy, J-1 Trainee

Anthony Mulloy came from the United Kingdom to train with Atlantic Hoisting and Scaffolding in New York City. Here's how he described his training...

*"When I started training they introduced me to all of the different jobs. I went to on-site visits to see many jobs, including the World Trade Center. I'm learning about hoists on the largest building, the Freedom Tower, it's going to be the tallest building in the U.S. It's a pretty exciting experience to be involved in. I've never worked on such a large scale—the largest in the UK is only about 5-6 floors high."*

## Jessica Dickman, J-1 Intern

Jessica Dickman (left) was a J-1 intern at Intrepid Potash in New Mexico. Here's how she described her favorite part of her internship...

*"Through school I didn't have a lot of experience with computers. So one of the greatest assets of doing this internship is learning the different programs like Microsoft Excel. I just finished a variance presentation that holds all of the information/data/head count/labor/budget for all three mines. My task was to go into the presentation and organize that data and that let me experience now ways of using computer programs that are valuable pieces of information that I can take with me to my next job."*



# Host Company Spotlight: Seattle Stair & Design

“We design and build custom grand staircases, rail systems, and entryways. We use old European methods that are still taught in France today. There is no place in the U.S. where what we do is taught as a regular part of the curriculum, so we have to teach our new craftsmen ourselves. We serve the high end residential and commercial markets and have installed work from Disney World to Hawaii, plus Japan.”



Seattle Stair & Design hosted J-1 participant Arnaud Bellanger for an 18-month training program. Arnaud came to the United States from France to learn new skills and techniques in architectural technology. Both Seattle Stair & Arnaud had a very rewarding J-1 experience.

■ What has been the most rewarding thing about having a J-1 Trainee at your company?

The technical skill he brought due to their training within the French Compagnon system. It's as though we had trained him ourselves. Our customers love it, too.





- **How did you integrate your J-1 Intern into your work culture (buddy system, formal orientation, etc)?**

He worked under the close supervision of a project manager on a very complex project. We swapped French and American systems for doing technical stair rail layouts

- **What did you do to prepare for your J-1 Intern's arrival?**

We located them interim housing. We found local French expats they could meet with while they were getting settled. We help them find inexpensive furniture on Craigslist.

- **What advice would you give to another host company about J-1 exchange?**

Get them private English lessons beginning in the first week or two. We paid for this.



- **Would you host another J-1 in the future?**

Absolutely. We have already started the process for our next Trainee.

# IEC by the Numbers

In the past quarter the International Exchange Center has brought in a diverse group of J-1 trainees and interns. Our program participants have a wide range of skill sets, professions, and cultural backgrounds.

## Top 5 Countries of Origin



Germany, 18.2%



France, 14.3%



United Kingdom, 11.7%



Japan, 10.4%

Italy  
6.5%

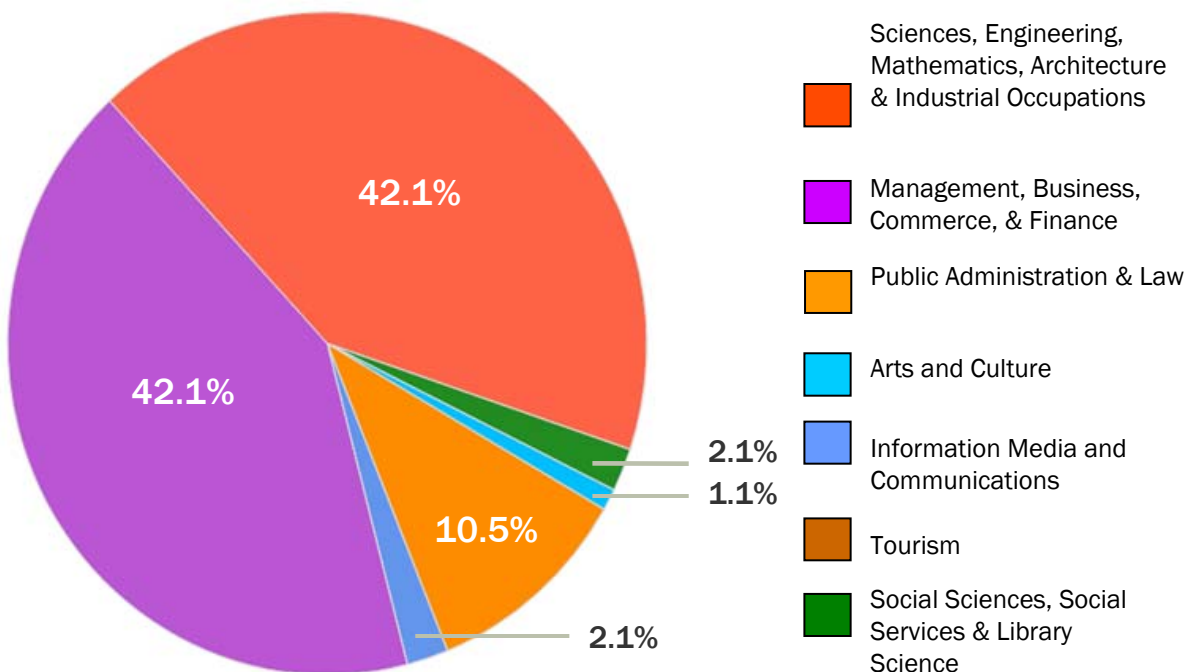


&



Canada  
6.5%

## Fields of J-1 Training



# Report: J-1 Alumni Impact Survey

**Do the J-1 intern and trainee programs sponsored by the American Immigration Council produce a lasting and positive impact on the lives of the J-1 visa holders? Do the J-1 visa holders leave with a lasting and positive impression of the United States? The responses from our alumni survey indicate an overwhelming “Yes.”**

**Survey results show that our alumni “Learned, Left and Leveraged” their experience in America.**

- They *learned* from their host company sponsors and about American culture—20% arrived in the US with a very positive impression but 59% left with a very positive impression.
- The vast majority *left* when their visas ended—89% reported that they left the United States after the conclusion of their J-1 program.
- After returning home they *leveraged* their new skills into new jobs and expanded responsibilities—95% of the respondents reported that the J-1 training or internship has had an impact on their current career

Between 2007 and January 2011, approximately 1200 J-1 Interns and Trainees completed programs sponsored by the American Immigration Council. 678 were invited by e-mail to participate in the Alumni Impact Survey. 79 or 11.7% of those invited answered the survey and the results indicate that our J-1 Visa Program participants overwhelmingly report a positive experience with our program.

## **J-1 Interns and Trainees Go Home**

Key results show that 89.3% left the United States after the conclusion of their J program. As sharing one’s positive experience with family, friends, and colleagues is an important goal of the exchange visitor visa, the result is a positive indicator that US Department of State objectives are being met.

## **Impressions of the United States Improve**

The change in overall impression of the United States from before to after participating in the J-1 program is notable. Only 20% of the respondents reported having a very positive impression of the United States before participating on the J-1 program; 58.7% reported a very positive impression after participating. 12% reported having a negative or very negative impression of the United States before participating on a J-1 program; 2.7% reported having a negative impression after participating and no one reported a very negative impression. The very positive impressions are not limited to the J-1s themselves. 64.3% of Trainees who brought their family as J-2 dependents reported that family members described their impressions of the United States at the end of the J program as very positive.

## **The J-1 Training or Internship had an Impact on Careers.**

94.7% of the respondents agreed that the J-1 training or internship has had an impact on their careers. 70.7% strongly agreed. 89.3% reported that they maintained professional contact with Americans they met during their J-1 programs. Even more impressive is the 90.7% who have maintained personal/social contact with Americans they met during their J-1 programs.

From the words of one of the respondents, “I found people not like those we see in tv.politics and citizens are not the same. Because before I came to the US, I use to see it in news in Iraq so taught that all Americans are that way, but thanks God I didn’t die with that idea in my head.”

## **Satisfied with the Support from the American Immigration Council**

97.3% of the respondents reported they either agreed or strongly agreed that the American Immigration Council was helpful throughout their J-1 experience.

[View the complete survey results here.](#)

# Online Resources

The International Exchange Center is dedicated to making the J-1 experience as seamless as possible for all parties involved. Our online resources aid in this effort.

Our most recent resources can be viewed through the links to the right. Our Host Company Welcome Video may be viewed below.

These resources help to ensure that both the J-1 exchange visitor and the host company gain the maximum benefits from the exchange.

## IEC Host Company Welcome

IntExchangeCenter 17 videos  



## Travel Validation Request Form



The International Exchange Center (IEC) is a non-profit organization that provides a wide range of services to its members. The IEC is committed to providing a high-quality experience for all of its members and to ensuring that the J-1 exchange program is as seamless as possible for all parties involved.

**Travel Validation Request Form**

The United States Department of State and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services require that all J-1 Travelers complete and submit this form to the IEC before departure to the United States. The form is used to validate the traveler's travel plans and to ensure that the traveler is eligible for the J-1 exchange program. The form is also used to track the traveler's travel history and to provide a record of the traveler's travel activities.

**Traveler Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Passport Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Purpose of Travel: \_\_\_\_\_

**Host Company Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send the original copy of your IEC-20 form and this form along with the fee to the IEC at the address below. This request will be processed within 10 business days.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE CENTER  
AMERICAN IMMIGRATION COUNCIL  
1101 15th Street, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20004

## J-1 Extension Request Form



The International Exchange Center (IEC) is a non-profit organization that provides a wide range of services to its members. The IEC is committed to providing a high-quality experience for all of its members and to ensuring that the J-1 exchange program is as seamless as possible for all parties involved.

**J-1 Extension Request Form**

The United States Department of State and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services require that all J-1 Travelers complete and submit this form to the IEC before departure to the United States. The form is used to validate the traveler's travel plans and to ensure that the traveler is eligible for the J-1 exchange program. The form is also used to track the traveler's travel history and to provide a record of the traveler's travel activities.

**Traveler Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Passport Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Purpose of Travel: \_\_\_\_\_

**Host Company Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send the original copy of your IEC-20 form and this form along with the fee to the IEC at the address below. This request will be processed within 10 business days.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE CENTER  
AMERICAN IMMIGRATION COUNCIL  
1101 15th Street, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20004

## Enhanced Application Packet



**INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE CENTER**  
AMERICAN IMMIGRATION COUNCIL

**Completing the Exchange Visitor Application**

Before you start to complete the Exchange Visitor Application, please read the following:

1. The forms, found on the far left side of this screen, can be completed and saved with Adobe Reader. You may need to up-grade your Adobe Reader program. Up-grading Adobe Reader is a free download.
2. Before filling in any information, please rename the application package and "save as" the real name.
3. You must tab out or click away from a completed field before information will be available.
4. Please read the application instructions before completing the forms.
5. Please contact us at [help@intexchange.com](mailto:help@intexchange.com) should you encounter any difficulty with the forms.

## Additional Resources:

- [Understanding the IEC Review Process](#)
- [Host Site Visits](#)
- [J-1 Host Company Survey](#)

# The J-1 Visa Holder in the Workplace

The Exchange Visitor Visa (J-1) provides American employers and international visitors outstanding opportunities to share cutting-edge ideas, knowledge of a world beyond our borders, and build deeper understanding of different people's values. Recently however, there have been reports of alleged abuses of the J-1 visa in the "Summer Work Travel" category. The allegations reinforce the importance of carrying out the main objective of the J-1 visa, and on following the rules of the Department of State, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Homeland Security.

**For companies hosting J-1 trainees and interns, here are some important factors to keep in mind:**

- The employer providing the internship or training is the Host Company. The Designated Sponsor is responsible to the US Department of State for the J-1 visa holder while in the United States. The Designated Sponsor (the American Immigration Council) makes the final determination of the appropriateness of the placement and who is also responsible for interceding if things go wrong. The Host Company is responsible to notify the Designated Sponsor of factors affecting the J-1 program, including changes to the training plan, change of training location, or early training end.
- J-1 categories such as "Trainee and Intern" may be work authorized. Work authorization is determined by the designated sponsor's J-1 program. The Social Security Administration annotates the Social Security card as work authorized only with USCIS approval; however, approval is indicated by the visa documents. E-Verify is based on Social Security records; therefore, work authorization for J visa holders cannot be verified through E-Verify. Documentation, including a copy of the DS-2019 and DS-7002, the J-1 visa, and the I-94 card should be kept with the employee records to show eligibility for employment in the United States.
- The US Department of Labor publishes guidelines for when internships may be unpaid. The guidelines require that six criteria be met; the two most important are: The internship experience is for the benefit of the intern; the employer that provides the training derives no immediate advantage from the activities of the intern. On occasion, its operations may actually be impeded. It is common, however, that the overseas employer sends the J-1 participant to the US for training and continues to pay the employee while here. In this case, a record of the agreement to provide training should be kept in the employee records.
- The primary purpose of the J-1 visa is for the visa holder to experience American culture. It is important that the J-1 participant be exposed to unique aspects of American life such as the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. Companies are encouraged to take the time to make sure the exchange visitor is invited to share the holiday with an American family. Encourage the exchange visitor to attend special events in the community, ideally with an American mentor who can explain what is going on. Remembering the primary purpose of the J-1 visa that international visitors to return home with a positive impression of the United States, will go a long way towards making sure that all involved have a valuable experience.

*Host Companies repeatedly tell us that their American employee production improves as they think about how to teach the J-1 visitor about their skills and role in the company. The employees also learn a great deal about the United States through the eyes of the J-1 visitor. The exchange of ideas becomes an important benefit of the exchange of people. Working together with our Host Companies, we can collectively contribute to better ties around the world.*

# Contact Us



**INTERNATIONAL  
EXCHANGE  
CENTER**

---

AMERICAN IMMIGRATION COUNCIL

1331 G Street NW

Suite 200

Washington, D.C. 20005

(202) 507-7500

[www.internationalexchangecenter.org](http://www.internationalexchangecenter.org)