

## **THE J-1 SCHOLAR PROGRAM**

Foreign professors can apply to participate as visiting professors and scholars at Virginia Christian University. The program duration one year and can be extended if the VACU and the visiting professor deem it necessary.

The exchange of professors and research scholars promotes the exchange of ideas, research, mutual enrichment and linkage between research and academic institution in the United States and foreign countries

### **Professor**

The professor category is for a foreign national who enters the United State for the primary purpose of teaching, lecturing, observing or consulting at accredited post-secondary academic institutions, museums, libraries or similar types of institutions. A professor may also conduct research, unless disallowed by the sponsoring organization.

### **Research Scholars**

This category is for a foreign national who enters the United States for the primary purpose of conducting research, observing or consulting in connection with research projects at research institutions, corporate research facilities, museums, libraries, post-secondary accredited academic institutions, or similar types of institutions. A research scholar may also teach or lecture, unless disallowed by the sponsor.

The research scholar or professor's appointment to a position shall be temporary, even if the position itself is permanent.

Incidental lectures or short-term consultations are permitted with the approval of the responsible officer so long as they are directly related to the objectives of the participant's program, and do not delay the exchange program's completion date.

### **Short-Term Scholar Program**

Professors, research scholars and other individuals with similar education or accomplishments travel to the United States on a short-term visit for to lecture, observe, consult, train or demonstrate special skills at research institutions, museums, libraries, post-secondary accredited academic institutions or similar types of institutions.

### **Eligibility for J-1 Professor, Research Scholars & Short-term Scholars**

- The exchange visitor must hold at least a Master degree or equivalent education
- The exchange visitors must have sufficient English proficiency to perform their jobs or complete their academic programs; to navigate daily life in the United States; to read and comprehend program materials; to understand fully their responsibilities, rights, and protections; and to know how to obtain assistance, if necessary.
- The appointment to the position is temporary. Tenure-accruing positions are prohibited in the J program

- The proposed activity must further interchange, mutual enrichment, and linkages between VACU and research and educational institutions of other countries
- The exchange visitor must have, at a minimum, the established financial support, either from VACU or other sources, to live an adequate lifestyle in the location of the proposed worksite
- The exchange visitor must maintain the insurance coverage that is required by federal regulations throughout the duration of the applicable J program
- Must have a specific program objectives supported by VACU; such as to conduct collaborative research, teaching, or consulting with VACU faculty

## **English Proficiency**

### J-1 Scholar English Proficiency Verification

The U.S. Department of State has mandated that J-1 Scholars/Professors have sufficient English proficiency to participate in their programs and function successfully in the U.S. daily. If sufficient English proficiency cannot be documented, then the potential Scholar is not eligible for J-1 Status.

VUIM will objectively measure and document the language proficiency of J-1 Scholars using one of the options below:

1. A documented interview conducted by the Hosting Department either in-person or by videoconferencing.
2. A recognized English language test: Evidence of TOEFL, IELTS, Duolingo or other recognized English test taken within the last 2 years. Minimum: 6.5 IELTS, 75 internet-based TOEFL, 60 Duolingo, equivalent for other tests.
3. Signed documentation from an academic institution or English language school: Evidence of graduation from a college/university wherein the primary method of instruction is English, evidence of completion of an ESL program, or a letter verifying the same.

Press for J-1 Scholars Handbook