

J-1 VISA

EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM

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BELGIAN AMERICAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Belgian-American Chamber of Commerce (BACC) has been designated by the U.S. Department of State as an Exchange Visitor Program sponsor.

As a sponsor, the BACC is permitted to issue a "Certificate of Eligibility" (Form DS-2019) to qualified Belgian interns/trainees, allowing them to train in the United States under a J-1 Visa in the field of Management, Business, Commerce and Finance.

The purpose of the BACC J-1 Visa Program is to expose Belgian trainees/interns to American business practices, corporate organization and substantive occupational experiences, as well as U.S. social and cultural history, that they may take back to their chosen career in Belgium.

In turn, employees of the intern/trainee's host company will gain valuable experience working with a person from a different cultural background and an understanding of the business culture of foreign companies with whom they might do business in the future.

COMPANY REQUIREMENTS

- Be or become a member of the BACC at the business level minimum
- Well established and sufficiently structured
- Match the internship / traineeship to the academic or professional background of the intern/trainee
- Provide a decent stipend
- Provide orientation materials and cross-cultural activities

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Belgian nationals
- At least 18 years old
- Proficient in English

Intern Program

- Have completed at least two years of study in a field related to the training and be registered full time at a university, college or superior school or graduated from such an institution no more than 12 months prior to the start date of the program
- Maximum internship period of 12 months

Trainee Program

- Completed studies with a university or superior school degree and have at least one year of work experience in a field relevant to the training
- 5 years of professional work experience if the applicant does not have a degree
- Maximum training period of 18 months

PROCESSING TIMES AND FEES

If there is no need for further documentation or clarification, J1 visa requests are processed in about 2 weeks.

Intern

- 0-6 Months: \$ 800
- 6-12 Months : \$ 1150

Trainee

- 0-6 Months: \$ 800
- 6- 12 Months: \$ 1150
- 12- 18 Months: \$ 1500

INSURANCE

Health and accident coverage is required for intern/ trainee and dependants. Coverage must meet minimum U.S. department of State requirements (contact us for information)

J1 VISA APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Host Company

- Company Questionnaire and Third Party Agreement
- Training/Internship Plan - Form DS-7002
- Written statement of stipend to trainee
- Administrative fee

Trainee/Intern

- Trainee/intern Questionnaire and Statement form
- Copy of resume
- Copy of first 10 pages of passport
- 2 letters of reference
- University statement (only for Intern program)
- Financial security statement
- Administrative fee (if paid by trainee/Intern)

