

# **The Exchange Visitor Program**

## ***WELCOME BROCHURE***

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs  
United States Department of State

The Department of State welcomes you to the United States. We are pleased to receive you as an exchange visitor. As an Exchange Visitor Program participant, you will acquire an experience in the United States, and as an ambassador of your country you will help educate the American people about your home country and culture.

This brochure will help you understand the purpose of the Exchange Visitor Program, provide you with information on contacting the Department of State, and introduce you to some of the major requirements of the Exchange Visitor Program regulations.

### **THE EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM**

**THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE** administers the Exchange Visitor Program under the provisions of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended. The Act promotes mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange. The Exchange Visitor Program provides foreign nationals opportunities to participate in exchange programs in the United States with the expectation that on completion of their exchange program, they will return home to share their experiences.

**Sponsors** – The U.S. Department of State designates U.S. organizations such as government agencies, academic institutions, educational and cultural organizations, and corporations to administer exchange visitor programs. These organizations are known as sponsors. Sponsors screen and select exchange visitors to participate in their programs based on the regulations governing the exchange activity and stated in 22 CFR Part 62. Sponsors provide exchange visitors pre-arrival information, an orientation, and monitor activities throughout their exchange program. Sponsors offer or identify cross-cultural activities that will expose exchange visitors to American

**Responsible Officers –**

## **Activities and Program Provisions –**

**Contacting the Department of State** – The Exchange Visitor Program is administered under the oversight of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Private Sector Exchange, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA).

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs  
U.S. Department of State  
State Annex SA-5, Fifth Floor  
Washington, DC 20522-0505

**Report Abuse or Exploitation** – If you are mistreated and/or your rights are violated, and your sponsor is not providing the help you need, contact the Department of State for assistance:

**J-1 Visa Emergency Hotline:** 1-866-283-9090.\*

This line is for use by exchange visitors and third parties in the case of urgent situations. \*A Department of State representative is available 24 hours a day.

**Regular Communications or questions:** [jvisas@state.gov](mailto:jvisas@state.gov).

This e-mail address is to communicate non-emergency issues, questions, and concerns.