

Ending J-1 Program Duration of Status (D/S) “30 day grace period”

If you have completed your J-1 program or terminated your program earlier than the DS-2019 end-date, INS automatically grants you and any J-2 family members an additional period (up to 30 days) to remain inside the U.S., this time is called the “30-day grace period.” You can use the grace period to sightsee, visit friends or relatives, and take care of personal affairs prior to departing the U.S.

The grace period is NOT a continuation of the J-1 program and in no circumstances may a scholar be paid or reimbursed for any work done during this time. Also, if you and/or your family members leave the U.S. during this time period, the grace period ends and any remaining time is “lost.” *During this time period it may be possible to process/apply for the following procedures: transfer of program, some changes of status, and program extension.*

In most instances the J-2 dependents must leave at the same time as the J-1 Scholar. If there are extenuating circumstances which might require the J-2 dependents to remain in the U.S. after the J-1 Scholars departure, the J-1 Scholar should discuss the reasons with IFSS **prior** to leaving the U.S.

Practical Implications: If a new visa status is applied for during the 30-day grace period, you should know that the application might not be far enough along for the scholar to remain in the U.S. while it is being considered. If a request for an extension is not made in advance of the 30-day grace period, it may be necessary for INS to process the extension in conjunction with travel outside of the U.S. and reentering.