

- **Exchange Visitor Program Information on Coronavirus (COVID-19)**
(<https://j1visa.state.gov/covid-19/>)
- **Visa Services Operating Status Update (November 19, 2021)**
(<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/visas-news/visa-services-operating-status-update.html>)



Early Career STEM Research Initiative

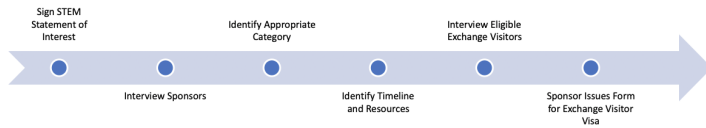
Following the issuance of the Joint Statement of Principles in Support of International Education in July 2021, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) is pleased to announce the launch of the Early Career STEM Research Initiative.

Benefits



Each year, thousands of communities across the United States welcome international visitors into their homes, schools, and businesses. That person-to-person interaction, exemplifying citizen diplomacy, ensures that Americans and international visitors learn about each other's culture and way of life. Hosting an exchange visitor builds your institution's international credibility, stature, and brand, positively affecting the lives of future professionals across borders, creating and strengthening your overseas network to partner organizations, and setting your institution apart from the competition with innovative ideas and perspectives.

Hosting STEM Exchange Visitors: The Process



STEP 1: Both STEM hosts organizations and sponsors sign the STEM Statement of Interest. The Statement serves as a mechanism to recognize the Initiative’s active partners and allow them to self-identify for participation.

STEP 2: BridgeUSA will share the names and specifics of interested hosts with the committed sponsors. Following the introduction, sponsors and hosts will follow their own internal procedures and applicable regulations to operationalize an exchange.

STEP 3: Host organizations may enter into agreements with their selected sponsors to identify the appropriate J-1 category and eligible candidates.

STEP 4: STEM host organizations identify suitable positions, relevant educational and cultural exchange experiences, and resources, e.e., fully funding an exchange or offering a hybrid approach where the exchange visitor pays for some of the programming costs.

STEP 5: Sponsors recruit, screen, and offer STEM host candidates to review for suitability e.g., interviews and resume reviews.

STEP 6: Once STEM host identifies the best match for their opportunity, the partnering sponsor will issue the necessary documents for the exchange visitor to apply for their J-1 visa.

STEP 7: Upon arrival, the partnering sponsor will continue to monitor the exchange visitor’s time with the STEM host organization.