

# The Global Glance

A Monthly Update from the Office of Global Engagement  
October 2023



## Visa/Immigration

### J-1 Scholars and Waiving the 2-Year Home Country Requirement

UNMC hosts more than 100 J-1 Exchange Visitors each year, with many of them appointed to postdoc positions across campus in various departments. The sponsorship process and visa application for a J-1 involves a determination by the US Consular Official (visa officer) of whether the J-1 Exchange Visitor should be subject to federal rule 212(e), typically called the 2-year home country requirement. When imposed, this stipulation dictates that a J-1 visitor must, at the conclusion of their J-1 program, fulfill a requirement to remain in their home country for at least two years before becoming eligible for any other type of work visa, such as H-1B or Permanent Residence (green card).

An alternative to fulfilling this 2-year requirement—and the most commonly used procedure in most cases—is to request a waiver of the requirement from the Department of State. While this process is fairly straightforward (and usually successful), there are very important considerations a J-1 Exchange Visitor should account for before proceeding with the waiver request. The first and most important consideration is that once a waiver of the 2-year requirement is approved, the current J-1 program can no longer be extended under any circumstance.

Another possible reason to delay applying for a waiver, even if the J-1 program has already been extended to the limit, is that international travel could become difficult once the waiver is approved, particularly if the travel involves applying for a new J-1 visa. The visa officer is required to confirm that the applicant has no intention to immigrate to the U.S., but it is commonly understood that when a J-1 receives a waiver of the 2-year requirement, this is an indication that they intend to immigrate, which means that the visa application must therefore be denied.

A J-1 Research Scholar (the category of J-1 used by postdocs at UNMC) can be approved for a program length of no more than five years, with many departments requesting one year initially and extending it either annually or to the five-year limit after

the first year.

Most participants will wait to apply for the waiver until their sponsoring department has requested an extension of their J-1 program to the 5-year limit, but it does occasionally happen that a J-1 Research Scholar will apply for a waiver before the program has been extended to its maximum duration. When this happens, the program can no longer be extended and the only choice for remaining employed past the end of the J-1 program is to then request a Change of Status to H-1B. Having the waiver in hand should make this process relatively easy, provided all H-1B parameters are met.

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## Upcoming Events and Deadlines

### Nebraska Ambassadors Forum

The Nebraska Ambassadors Forum is scheduled for Monday, October 23 from 8:00-10:00 a.m. in the Truhlsen Events Center in the Sorrell Center. A continental breakfast will be provided. Details for participating either in-person or via Zoom are below.

Problems from refugee flows through famine to the attractiveness of criminal gangs demand sustainable development for solution. In many cases, development and diplomacy are intertwined in the policy response. The challenge is large as are the demands on leaders and policy. The 2023 Ambassadors Forum will consider the problems of diplomacy and sustainable development from several perspectives.

Speakers include:

- Amb. Ronald E. Neumann, Former U.S. Ambassador to Algeria, Bahrain and Afghanistan
- Alonzo L. Fulgham, Former acting Administrator of USAID
- Amb. Dawn M. Liberi, Former U.S. Ambassador to Burundi
- Amb. J. Peter Pham, Former U.S. Special Envoy for the Sahel Region of Africa

Schedule:

- 8:00 – 8:30 am Continental breakfast
- 8:30 – 9:30 am Talks by Ambassadors
- 9:30 – 10:00 am Questions and Answers

All UNMC students, faculty and staff are encouraged to attend. Go to [Neambassadorsforum.com](https://neambassadorsforum.com) for more information.

[Click here to register for in-person.](#)

If you cannot attend in-person, connect via Zoom.

<https://unmc.zoom.us/j/97956971720?pwd=VGhBN0xrMW9wQTAvUjRubCs2d2YwZz09>

Meeting ID: 979 5697 1720

Passcode: 716383

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### 2022 Office of Global Engagement Annual Report

OGE is proud to announce the release of its 2022 annual report.

[View the full report here.](#)

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