Attached is your extension DS-2019. You now have the legal authorization to stay in the US and work as a J-1 scholar until the end date on your new document. Check the DS-2019(s) carefully to make sure that all of the information is correct and be sure to sign at the bottom of the document. If you are working for CMU, you will use this new document to update your I-9 form with the Payroll Office. To download a copy of your I-94, go to www.cbp.gov/I94.

I've moved, should I notify the Office of International Education (OIE)?
Yes, regulations require that you notify OIE of any change of residential address within 10 days. Send an email to oie@andrew.cmu.edu with your new address.

If I want to travel, when do I need a new signature on my DS-2019?
The travel validation signature on the bottom right corner of the DS-2019(s) for yourself and your family members is valid for one year or until the DS-2019 expires, whichever comes first. You and your family members need to get a new signature on the DS-2019 once every year. If you intend to travel outside the US for more than 30 days, consult with an OIE advisor.

If I decide to travel outside of the US, will I be permitted to re-enter with my extended DS-2019?
Yes. In most cases, however, you will also need a valid J-1 visa to re-enter the US. For travel to Canada, Mexico or a Caribbean island (with the exception of Cuba), most J-1 scholars and their dependents can re-enter the US with an expired visa if they will be outside the US for fewer than 30 days. This is considered ‘automatic visa revalidation.’ See the OIE website or pick up a handout called ‘Travel Information for J and H’ for specific details regarding visa revalidation. Note: If you apply for a US visa in Canada and are denied, you are not eligible for ‘automatic revalidation.’ Additionally, ‘automatic revalidation’ does not apply to citizens, permanent residents or nationals of Cuba, Iran, Syria, or Sudan.

When will my J-1 visa stamp expire?
The expiration date is printed on the visa sticker. In most cases, the J-1 visa in your passport expires on the same date as your initial DS-2019. The next time you travel outside of the US, you must apply for a new J-1 visa at a US Consulate to re-enter.

Where can I apply for a new J-1 visa?
You can apply for your new J-1 visa at the US Consulate in your home country. If you plan to travel to a country other than your home country, you should contact the US Consulate in that country to inquire about whether they will accept visa applications from ‘third country nationals.’ Applying for a visa in a third country could be risky. It’s advisable to make an appointment with your OIE advisor to discuss this option. J-1 visas cannot be obtained in the US.

How long can I stay in the US?
You may stay in the US in J-1 status until the end date on your DS-2019 or the end of your activity at CMU, whichever is earlier. You also may remain during a 30 day grace period after the end of the document or the activity in order to prepare to depart the US. Note that you may not be employed or exit and re-enter the US in J-1 status during the 30 day grace period, but you may apply for a change of status by the end of the 30 day grace period. (NOTE: An extension of stay or transfer to another J program must be completed by the end date on the DS-2019.)

J-1 Research Scholars and Professors are eligible to extend their stay for up to 5 years in total. However, once a Research Scholar/Professor’s J program ends, they are barred from repeat participation as a J Research Scholar/Professor status for 2 years. J-1 Short-Term Scholars are eligible to stay for up to 6 months with no extensions permitted; Short-Term Scholars are not barred from re-entering the US again in Short-Term Scholar status or as a Research Scholar/Professor.

It is important to note that any extension must be granted by OIE prior to the expiration date on the DS-2019.

How do I change my status?
If you are not subject to the 2-year home residency requirement [212(e)], you or your employer may apply to change status by submitting the appropriate application to a USCIS Service Center. If you are subject to 212(e), you may not have or gain a permanent work status such as H-1B, L-1 or US Permanent Resident status until you have either returned to your home country for two years or have obtained a waiver. You may, however, travel and re-enter the US in other non-immigrant statuses such as B-1/B-2, J or F. Visit the OIE website, pick up a handout, or meet with your advisor for more information.

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