Visiting Carnegie Mellon/Pittsburgh from the CMU-Qatar Campus
- Information for Non-U.S. Citizens -

General Information
At the Office of International Education (OIE), we warmly welcome visitors from the CMU-Qatar campus to the Pittsburgh campus, and hope that we will have the opportunity to meet you during your visit. Opportunities to meet with you might occur during an orientation session, a one-on-one advising appointment, or a scheduled program such as an OIE social open house held twice per academic term.

This handout offers information for non-U.S. citizens who will visit the Pittsburgh campus for a professional reason in B Visitor status or as a J-1 scholar. Several members of the CMU-Qatar administration are qualified to assist in some of the practical matters related to a Pittsburgh campus visit (Students from the Qatar campus who plan to enroll in the Pittsburgh campus will likely come to the U.S. in F-1 status and should follow a separate set of procedures). Also, questions may be directed to an OIE staff member.

Visiting the U.S. in B Visitors Status
Most short-term visitors will use the B Visitors visa to enter the U.S. There are several B categories: B-1 visitor for business, B-2 visitor for pleasure, B WWP (Visa Waiver Program.) Most visitors will use the B-1 for business or Visa Waiver Program for a professional visit to the Pittsburgh campus. Ability to use the Visa Waiver Program (which does not require advance application for a U.S. visa stamp in the passport prior to arrival in the U.S.) depends upon (1) nationality and (2) length of anticipated stay.

Several purposes are outlined (9 FAM 41.31 N5) as being appropriate uses of the B-1 visitor for business: negotiate contracts, consult with business associates, participate in scientific, educational, professional or business conventions, conferences or seminars, or undertake independent research. (For research purposes, also read the section on J-1 below).

B-1 visitors for business are admitted to the U.S. “for a period of time which is fair and reasonable for completion of the purpose of the trip,” based primarily on the amount of time that the visitor needs to complete the anticipated business purpose, but not to exceed one year. The period of allotted time is noted on the small I-94 card which is placed in the passport upon entry to the U.S., and should be kept safely until departure from the U.S.

Employment in the U.S. is not allowed, but reimbursement and per diem payments are allowed if related to the B-1 activity. The total amount of such payments cannot exceed what is “reasonable.” An academic honorarium can be paid, but only under very limited circumstances including a visit that is not longer than 9 days at one institution; check with OIE for specifics.

Many visitors require the B1/B2 visa stamp in the passport prior to arrival in the U.S.; U.S. visa stamps can only be obtained from a U.S. consulate located outside of the U.S. The Consulate in Doha offers helpful details regarding the B1/B2 visa application process.

Citizens of some countries (Western European countries, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, and others) do not require a B1/B2 visa stamp in the passport provided that the individual has a machine readable passport, will not visit the U.S. for a period longer than 90 days, and otherwise meets the criteria for entry to the U.S. For details on the Visa Waiver Program, visit the website of the U.S. consulate in Doha or the website of the U.S. consulate in your “home” (passport) country for additional information.
Upon entry to the U.S., visitors from the CMU-Qatar campus should present an official letter from CMU-Q outlining the purpose of the visit, the intended length of stay, and the organization's intent to cover related business expenses. As part of the US-VISIT security program, digital finger-scans and photographs will be taken at the port of entry. (For more information, visit website below.)

Anyone who has questions about extending B status after arrival in the U.S. should discuss this issue with an OIE advisor well before the expiration date noted on the I-94 card. Those who entered the U.S. using the Visa Waiver Program may not extend their stay.

**Visiting the U.S. in J-1 Status**

Some academic visitors from the CMU-Qatar campus may visit CMU-Pittsburgh as a J-1 researcher scholar, short-term scholar, or professor. An invitation for such status will be coordinated by the CMU-Qatar campus, an academic “host” department on the Pittsburgh campus and the OIE several months in advance of the anticipated arrival. The use of J-1 status would aid entry of an academic visitor with a bona fide research or teaching purpose who plans a visit of several months or longer on the Pittsburgh campus.

Request for the required DS-2019 document is received by the OIE on behalf of the visiting researcher or professor from the CMU-Pittsburgh academic host department. OIE will produce the DS-2019 and send it to the visitor in Qatar with detailed instructions on how to proceed with the visa application process and arrival to the U.S. and Pittsburgh. For more information on visiting CMU in J status, visit the OIE website at: [https://www.cmu.edu/oie/foreign-scholars/coming-to-cmu.html](https://www.cmu.edu/oie/foreign-scholars/coming-to-cmu.html)

Visitors in J-1 status should be aware of the two-year home residency requirement which will apply to citizens of many countries in certain fields. Citizens of Qatar in many academic areas will be subject to the two-year home residency requirement. More information about this and other J-1 requirements can be found on the U.S. Department of State website or on the OIE website at: [https://www.cmu.edu/oie/foreign-scholars/j1-exchange/index.html](https://www.cmu.edu/oie/foreign-scholars/j1-exchange/index.html)

All J scholars are **required** to check in with OIE upon arrival as is outlined in the detailed materials that are mailed with the DS-2019 document prior to arrival. Failure to check-in in a timely manner will result in the loss of legal J status in the U.S.

**The Office of International Education**

The Office of International Education, located in the main administration building, Warner Hall, serves foreign students and scholars attending CMU-Pittsburgh and study abroad for CMU-Pittsburgh students who are interested in study outside of the U.S. We offer practical advice about arriving and living in Pittsburgh and the U.S., as well as informational, cultural and social programming. Visitors from CMU-Qatar may benefit from our experience working with foreign visitors.

All new arrivals must attend the Weekly Orientation Session for New Scholars. Scholar Orientation takes place every Thursday from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM. Please call in advance to let us know about your attendance.

**(J visitors are **required** to attend one session upon arrival)**

**Additional Resources**

- US Department of State, [http://www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) or [http://travel.state.gov/visa/questions_embassy.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/questions_embassy.html)
- Department of State, [https://www.dhs.gov/](https://www.dhs.gov/)