Please read the following information carefully.

**RESPONSIBILITIES AS A J-1 VISA HOLDER**
- J-1 Exchange Visitors must meet with International Affairs staff if they would like to work or intern off the MICA campus.
- J-1 Exchange Visitors must inform International Affairs every time their local U.S. home address changes.
- Always maintain health insurance

**EXTENDING J-1 STATUS**
- J-1 Visitors wishing to extend their stay at MICA must speak with International Affairs Staff at least two months prior to the DS-2019 end date.
- Professors and Short-Term Scholars must speak with their Department Chair regarding the extension.

**FOLLOWING YOUR J-1 STAY**
J-1 Exchange Visitors are permitted by the US Government to remain in the U.S. in J-1 status for 30 days following the end of their DS-2019.

**TWO-YEAR HOME RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT**
(Note: This Requirement is not applicable to all J visa-holders. Speak to International Affairs Staff for further information)
- Following the conclusion of J-1 status, **some** J-1 Exchange Visitors are required to be resident in their home countries for two full years before being eligible for the following immigration statuses...
  - H or L category employment or dependent visas
  - K family visas
  - Legal permanent residency
  - Not permitted to change their visa type within the United States. May be able to travel overseas and apply for a non-H, L, or K category visa from outside the USA and re-enter with new status.
- Exchange Visitors may be subject to the Two-year Home Residency Requirement based upon two factors:
  1. The Exchange Visitor’s country of citizenship + field of study, as determined by the US Department of State. Speak to International Affairs Staff for more information
  2. Whether the Exchange Visitor’s J-1 visit is ‘substantially’ funded by a foreign or US government.

**12 AND 24 MONTH BARS**
(Note: This Bar applies only to visitors interested in visiting MICA in the J-1 Professor category. Speak to International Affairs Staff for further information)
- Individuals who have held J-1 status in the 12 months preceding the prospective start date at MICA will not be eligible for J-1 Professor status.
- When a J-1 Professor has completed either 5 full years in J-1 Professor status OR passed their DS-2019 end-date on their DS-2019, whichever is earlier, they may not return to the United States in the J-1 Professor category for the 24 months following DS-2019 end date.

**IMPLICATIONS OF RECEIVING GOVERNMENT FUNDING**
- If an Exchange Visitor’s visit to the United States is ‘substantially’ funded by a foreign or US government, they may be subject to the Two Year Home Residency Requirement (see above).
- ‘Substantial’ funding means that at least 50% of the funding listed on the J-1 Funding Form is provided by either a foreign government, the US government or a combination thereof.
UNDERSTANDING YOUR J-1 VISA:
The J-1 visa program was designed by the US Department of State to facilitate educational exchange across nations and cultures. We believe that scholars from outside the United States infuse the MICA campus with extraordinary talent and broad perspective. We expect participants in the Exchange visitor program to absorb the MICA campus and, upon returning to their home campus, share the skills, culture and information obtained at MICA. We’re excited that you are able to participate in this program. As a scholar participating in the J-1 Exchange Visitor program, you will enrich the MICA community with diversity and enlighten us with your skills.

According to the Department of State website,

“The Exchange Visitor Program promotes mutual understanding between the people of the United States (U.S.) and the people of other countries by educational and cultural exchanges, under the provisions of U.S. law. Exchange Programs provide an extremely valuable opportunity to experience the U.S. and our way of life, thereby developing lasting and meaningful relationships….At the conclusion of their program, Exchange Visitor program participants are expected to return to their home countries to utilize the experience and skills they have acquired while in the U.S. Questions regarding an exchange program(s) should be directed to the program sponsor.

In carrying out the responsibilities of the Exchange Visitor Program, the Department of State (DOS) designates public and private entities to act as exchange sponsors. Designated sponsoring organizations facilitate the entry of foreign nationals into the U.S. as exchange visitors to complete objectives of one of the wide variety of exchange visitor program categories shown below. Select from the list below to learn about the program requirements and regulations by category on the ECA Website”

MICA has determined that your experience and talent as an artist and academic perfectly suits you to participate in the MICA J-1 Exchange Visitor (Professor/Short-Term Scholar) program. As a participant in the Exchange Visitor program, we will look to you to promote cross-cultural understanding through education. This is a mission that will begin here at MICA and continue when you return to your home country.

HEALTH INSURANCE:
Health Insurance coverage is required for all J-1 program participants and their dependents. The U.S. State Department has established minimum requirements for the coverage in order to protect you and any family members who are here with you in case of sickness or accident. Please see our J-1 Health Insurance handout for further information.

J-1 ACTIVITIES:
Your MICA department should inform you of your official responsibilities and activities while at MICA. MICA J-1 Visitors are also encouraged to participate in MICA campus events, including openings, open lectures and other happenings.

POSSIBLE EXPENSES DURING YOUR J-1 VISIT
Below please find estimated costs you will incur during your visit to Baltimore. If your stay in Baltimore will be under a month, please pro-rate the estimates below.

- **Living expenses** (including housing and board): Approximately $1,700/month
- **Health Insurance**: Approximately $60-900/month
- **Transportation**: Day passes for local MTA transportation are $3.50. Single rides on the bus, subway or light rail are $1.60
- **Dependent living expenses**: $583/month

U.S. EMPLOYMENT BEYOND MICA
Please speak with International Affairs staff for information about possible employment in the U.S. beyond MICA. J-1 employment is highly regulated.

HOUSING:
Most exchange visitors live in Baltimore City or its nearby environs. The MICA Office of Residence life lists some off-campus housing opportunities. We encourage you to use this resource to start your search for housing by visiting the Residence Life website here: [https://danube.mica.edu/reslife/findhousing/](https://danube.mica.edu/reslife/findhousing/). Generally speaking, MICA cannot guarantee or provide housing for exchange visitors.