

International Career Development Programs

French Trainees in the United States

The French-American Chamber of Commerce (FACC) is an independent, non-profit, apolitical organization founded in 1896 to promote strong trade relations between the United States and France. Through our International Career Development Programs, we can assist young French trainees and interns in obtaining a visa and the authorization necessary to work in the United States.

The Program

The French-American Chamber of Commerce (FACC) is authorized by the American government's United States Information Agency (USIA) to issue the Form DS-2019, also known as the Certificate of Eligibility. This document permits internship and trainee candidates to request a J-1 visa at the American Consulate in Paris. With the J-1 visa through the FACC, French Young Professionals can work as paid trainees for a maximum of 18 months. This type of visa also permits a French Student to legally work in the United States as a paid trainee for up to 12 months.

Both Young Professionals and Students must work full-time for a company that satisfies the following criteria:

- Willingness to pay at least the current U.S. minimum wage.
- Part of the business sector (teaching facilities, non-profit organizations and government institutions are not eligible).
- Sufficient structure to provide proper supervision for the trainee.
- At least 3 other full-time employees.
- Majority of employees American citizens.
- Membership in the French-American Chamber of Commerce.

Young Professionals

When a Young Professional receives an offer from an eligible company, he or she may qualify to receive work authorization for periods of up to 18 months provided that the following requirements are met:

- French citizenship or permanent residency in France.
- Bachelors of Arts, French *Licence* or completion of at least two years of undergraduate coursework, combined with relevant work experience.
- 18 to 35 years of age.
- Has not held previous J-1 trainee visas that, when combined with the duration of the proposed internship, total more than 18 months.

Students

When a Student receives an offer from an eligible company, he or she may qualify to receive work authorization for periods of up to 12 months provided that the following requirements are met:

- French citizenship or a permanent residency in France.
- Currently enrolled in university coursework leading to a degree.
- 18 to 35 years of age.
- Has received an internship offer that corresponds with his or her studies.
- Has not received previous J-1 trainee visas that, when combined with the duration of the proposed internship, total more than 18 months.

Application Procedure

Once a qualified candidate receives an offer, the host company should contact the New York office of the French-American Chamber of Commerce. Application materials for both parties will be mailed to the employer. After the completed application forms have been submitted, the FACC committee reviews the request.

File Processing

A file is complete once the following documents are returned to the FACC in New York:

The company must submit:

- Company Request Form
- Training Syllabus
- Proof of FACC membership
- Administrative Fee

The trainee must submit:

- Trainee Request Form
- OMI Application
- Copy of Résumé
- Copy of Passport (first 10 pages and any previous visa stamps)

In addition, either the company or the trainee must provide proof of medical insurance meeting US government requirements for exchange visitors.

For **Young Professionals**, the company must also complete a reciprocity form. This form represents a commitment from companies with offices in France to assist the FACC in providing training opportunities for young Americans in France.

For **Students**, a university statement must be submitted with the file. This statement, signed by a school official, declares that the internship is either a required or recommended component of the Student's degree program.

Extension Requests

Companies may request extensions provided that they do not prolong the internship beyond the maximum total duration limits of 18 months for Young Professionals and 12 months for Students.

For administrative fees please visit: http://www.faccnyc.org/intern_frenchtrainees.html

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