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J-1 Exchange Visitors Responsibility Agreement

As a J-1 Exchange Visitor (EV), you are admitted to the United States for “duration of status” (D/S) and are authorized to remain legally in the U.S. as long as you continue to fulfill the federal requirements pertaining to your J-1 visa status.

NOTE: There is a significant different between a J-1 visa and J-1 visa status. The visa is a stamp placed in your by a U.S. consular officer for the purpose of establishing eligibility to apply for entry to the U.S. J-1 status is granted when you request admission to the U.S. after arriving at a port of entry.

Even if the J-1 visa is valid, failure to comply with immigration laws and regulations can result in a loss of the J-1 status and have very serious legal consequences. UC Merced is required to report to the federal government when a J-1 Exchange Visitor fails to maintain their legal status.

Please review the following information to understand your rights and responsibilities as J-1 Exchange Visitor:

1. The total period of J-1 authorization may not exceed 5 years. This includes time previously spent in J-1 status at another institution before transferring to UC Merced.

2. As a J-1 EV, I must notify the Office of International Affairs, in writing, of any intent to change my work location, title, job duties, or research area prior to the change(s) taking place.

3. As a J-1 EV, I must notify the Office of International Affairs, in writing, of any changes to the amount and source of the funding for my program within 10 days of the change(s) taking place.

4. As a J-1 EV, I may not accept any employment, on or off campus, which is not listed on the form DS-2019 without first obtaining written authorization from a Responsible Officer (RO) or Alternate Responsible Officer (ARO) at UC Merced.

5. As a J-1 EV, my J-2 dependents and I must maintain health insurance coverage that meets the U.S. Department of State’s requirements. Health insurance coverage must be effective for the duration of my J-1 program.

6. As a J-1 EV, I must report immediately to the Office of International Affairs any intent to terminate my affiliation with UC Merced prior to the expiration date of the form DS-2019.

7. Before traveling outside the U.S. with the intension of re-entering under the J-1 status, I must have my form DS-2019 endorsed by an RO/ARO at UC Merced. It is recommended that requests for travel endorsement be submitted no less than 2 weeks prior to the intended date of departure.

8. Requests to extend my J-1 status must be submitted by my faculty supervisor or school to the Office of International Affairs no less than 2 months prior to the program end date indicated on the form DS-2019.

9. As a J-1 EV, I am not eligible for extensions of my J-1 status if I have received a “no objection” letter from the Department of State or a waiver from the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services in relation to 212(e); also known as the 2-year home country residence requirement.

10. I understand that a request to transfer my J-1 SEVIS record must be accompanied by an acceptance letter to an academic program or an offer of employment from a new institution.

11. I understand that my J-2 dependents’ status is contingent upon the continued validity of my J-1 status, and that loss of my legal status as a J-1 EV represents automatic loss of legal J2 status for my dependents.

12. If I, as the J-1 EV, am absent from the U.S. for an extended period of time, my J-2 dependents may not remain lawfully in the U.S.

13. As a J-1 EV, I must notify the Office of International Affairs of changes to my address within 10 days of moving.

14. I understand that my passport must be valid at all times, for at least 6 months into the future.

I certify that I have been informed of my rights and responsibilities as a J-1 Exchange Visitor. I understand that I must abide by USCIS and Department of State regulations in order to remain legally in the U.S. and to continue my research/studies at UC Merced.

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Last (family) name First (given name) name

Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_