

Participant Newsletter
May 2011



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This newsletter is sent to all active participants in the American Immigration Council J-1 Training Program. Please review the information below and remember to always contact the Council if you have questions or concerns about your training program or non-immigrant status. If you are no longer participating in our program, please notify us. If you have a question for the Council, please do not reply to this message, but instead send your question to J1program@immcouncil.org.

The International Exchange Center is on Facebook!

If you are already on Facebook, look up our page “**International Exchange Center**” and Like it.

The IEC page is updated frequently with interesting information including a city spotlight every other week and video tips and information. You can also use this space to connect with other trainees and interns in your area!

The IEC is launching a new video series called the “Monthly Minute” where we’ll explore cultural oddities of each month in just about one minute! Is there a strange piece of American culture you’d like us to explore?? Let us know and we’ll feature it next month!

Important Reminders!

For all new trainees and interns, please wait at least 48 hours between sending your follow up documents and applying for your social security number (SSN). Make sure you have been in the United States for at least 10 days.

Two Weeks prior to international travel, you must send in your DS-2019 form for endorsement. The endorsement is valid for one year.



EXCHANGE VISITOR OF THE MONTH

A Conversation with Johnathan Ben Dor



Congratulations to Johnathan Ben Dor, our Exchange Visitor of the Month! Johnathan came to California from Israel to train in the area of game design. We caught up with Johnathan a few days ago to learn more about his experience in the United States.

Q: Were you excited to come to California from Israel?

A: Oh yeah definitely!

Q: How have your expectations been met?

A: It has passed any expectation that I had.

Q: What’s the biggest difference? Any Similarities?

A: The way everything

is so spread out and big it’s just huge! Whether it’s the coca-cola bottle or the street you’re walking on. The climate is similar; weather is sunny and warm and nice. The beach culture is similar too.

Q: Tell me a little about your training?

A: The company creates game cinematics for games which are the animations between the actual games. Also commercials openings for TV shows and visual effects for films. I get to learn a little bit of everything but mostly specialize in the broadcast department doing graphics for TV shows.

Q: What’s your favorite

thing about the training?

A: The people that I work with!

Q: What’s your favorite thing to do outside of your training?

A: I love taking photos and there are so many things to snap around LA! I’m fascinated with people and culture. And I like to snap things that represent America like the lifeguard towers on the beach.

Q: Favorite place?

A: I love Venice beach because of the type of people that are here. The majority of people are artists.

Q: Favorite food?

A: Mexican! Its funny because the amount of Mexican places around California is ridiculous. I love it! I’m hooked!

Would you like to be featured as our next Exchange Visitor of the Month? Let us know what you are doing -- send us an email with your story and a picture to:

J1Program@immcouncil.org.

Summer Travel in America



Summer is almost here and as it approaches many of you will start thinking about making some travel plans. There are many places of interest across the United States whether you are looking for a beach vacation or a week in the mountains. The U.S. also has a strong tradition of road trips. If you're looking for adventure, grab a friend or two, hop in the car and head out on the open road. For ideas of what routes to take in your area check out www.roadtripusa.com.

If you are looking for some suggestions of great vacation spots, check out our Facebook page! We will be doing destination weeks all summer long. We've already had a great National Parks Week exploring some of the protected natural beauty throughout the U.S. Be sure to check back frequently for the upcoming New Jersey Week!

We would love to hear your stories! If you have a great trip or stumble upon something interesting please share it with us and your fellow trainees and interns on our Facebook page. This is a great way to swap stories with other exchange visitors and get to know parts of the country that you might not be able to see otherwise.

What to do if you Lose your Documents

Keeping your vital documents in a secure place is important, but even the most careful people discover that stuff happens. A DS-2019 form slips out of carry-on luggage. A passport is stolen. The I-94 card falls out of the passport. Or, a spilled cup of coffee or soda turns your documents to a mass of illegible pulp. What do you do if you need to replace your documents?

DS-2019 – the American Immigration Council is able to replace the DS-2019 form for active participants. To do so, we need a note telling us where you last remember having your DS-2019, how you believe it was lost or damaged, and payment of \$50.

I-94 card - If you have lost your I-94 card, you will need to contact the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS). You will need to complete an Application for Replacement/Initial Nonimmigrant Arrival-Departure Document. The application, form I-102, and procedure can be found at:

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis4vgnnextoid=e5d95d4c6608e010VgnVCM10000000ecd190aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=db029c7755cb9010VgnVCM1000045f3d6a1RCRD>

It is extremely important that this document be replaced as it is used to record your legal entry and exit to the United States. Failure to turn in an I-94 card upon departure can affect future visas

to the United States.

Passport – There are a number of steps you'll need to do to replace your passport:

1.) File a report of the lost passport with the nearest police station to where you believe it was lost. Get a copy of the police report. Make several copies of the report and be sure to keep one for your records.

2.) Report the lost passport to your embassy or consulate. Most embassies have web sites with contact information in the United States. Each has a different procedure for replacing the passport.

3.) Report your visa lost or stolen, via fax, to the Consular Section or Consul General at the US Embassy abroad which issued your visa. Go to the U.S. Embassy or Consulate website to locate the fax number and contact information. Be sure to include your full name, date of birth, place of birth, address in the U.S., and an e-mail address (if available). Specifically state whether the visa was lost or stolen. Fax a copy of the visa to the Embassy or consular section. If you need a copy of the visa, contact the American Immigration Council.

Please note that once the visa has been reported lost or stolen, should you find the passport, you can no longer use the

original visa should you leave and wish to reenter the United States.

J Visa - You do not need to replace the J-1 visa so long as you are in the United States. However, if you leave the US with the intent to return to continue your J program, you will need to apply for a new visa before you can reenter the US. To do so, in addition to the DS-160, DS-2019, and DS-7002 forms, you will need to provide a written account documenting the loss of your passport and visa. Include a copy of the police report.

We hope you will not need to replace your documents during your J program, so make sure they are in a safe place. Just don't make it so safe that you can't remember where it is!

Contact Information

The best way to contact us with address changes, questions or suggestions is via email. Please send your message to J1program@immcouncil.org. We welcome any and all newsletter suggestions or comments.

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