



## SUMMARY OF THE J-1 VISA REGULATIONS

The French-American Chamber of Commerce (FACC), New York Chapter, is authorized by the U.S. State Department to sponsor eligible Interns and Trainees on a J-1 visa by issuing the Certificate of Eligibility, Form DS-2019. V.I.E candidates may then apply for a J-1 visa. The FACC makes sure that both the candidate and the host company are eligible.

### CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS

Candidates for a V.I.E in the U.S. must be eligible for a **J-1 visa as an “intern” or a “trainee”**. This visa must be used for eligible training or internship programs only and not for work. V.I.Es can not be hired locally during or at the end of the program.

**J-1 “Intern”:** **maximum duration is 12 months**. Candidate must be:

- A student in a foreign post-secondary institution or;
- Graduate of such an institution in the last 12 months preceding the internship start date.

**J-1 “Trainee”:** **maximum duration is 18 months**. Candidate must have:

- A post-secondary foreign diploma or certificate and one year of related work experience in the same field as the proposed training or;
- Five years of related work experience outside the U.S. if he or she has no postsecondary degree.

Candidates must be proficient enough in English to function in an English-speaking professional environment (proofs of linguistic skills required).

### HOSTING COMPANY REQUIREMENTS

- A well-established **local subsidiary or commercial partner of the French company** in the same industry;
- At least **3 full-time permanent employees**, with **2/3 of American citizens or green card holders**. The number of J-1 visa candidates hosted must be proportional to the number of employees (ex: 1 J-1 visa candidate for 3 employees) **and not exceed 10 % of total staff**;
- Have **sufficient structure to provide proper supervision** for the V.I.E;
- **Financial stability** (provide EIN numbers and annual business reports);
- **Be a member of the local FACC chapter in the U.S.** for the entire duration of the program;
- Develop an eligible Form DS-7002 **Training/Internship Placement Plan**.



A site visit is scheduled for host companies that have never used the program before and having:

- Less than 25 employees or;
- A turnover below \$ 3 million.

## NATURE OF ASSIGNMENTS

- The **candidate is considered as an “intern” or a “trainee”**. The activities carried out during the assignments will be mention in a detailed training plan (teaching approach and the means put in place to train);
- The **activities must relate directly to the applicant’s academic course;**
- The FACC must obtain **internship reports for all the participants** (intermediate evaluation half way through the course as well as an evaluation at the end);
- The **manager must supervise the V.I.E** on a daily basis.

## CONTACT IN THE U.S.

Vincent POSNIC  
Project Coordinator V.I.E Program  
French Trade Commission UBIFRANCE  
C/o FACC-NY

+1 (212) 867-9262  
[infovieux@ubifrance.fr](mailto:infovieux@ubifrance.fr)