United States Department of State

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Washington, DC 20522

February 1, 2017

Dear Host Employer:

On behalf of the U.S. Department of State, I welcome your decision to host an international summer work travel visitor on the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program. As a host, you will join the thousands of American companies and organizations who serve as citizen ambassadors of the United States. This is a unique opportunity for you to experience firsthand the richness and diversity of a culture different from your own while giving an international visitor the opportunity to learn about your profession and our country's values and culture. Many organizations have found the Exchange Visitor Program to be a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

It is important that you fully understand this program before deciding whether it will be a good fit for your organization. You are hosting a young international visitor who will learn from your expertise and emulate your cultural and professional practices. Your summer work travel visitor is a guest in your workspace and in the United States perhaps for the first time. How you interact with your summer work travel visitor will create powerful and lasting images about our country, our culture, our values and us as American citizens.

The responsibility of creating an effective, meaningful, safe and productive summer exchange experience rests with you as the host. To this end, you must be prepared to work with the summer work travel visitor to establish an environment that is as conducive both to professionalism and cultural exchange as much as possible. Summer work travel visitors require ongoing supervision and should have ample opportunities ask questions and participate in cultural activities both during and outside of regular duty hours. Summer work travel participants must not be placed in positions that require licensing or positions that are non-seasonal or non-temporary.

Information about the summer work travel program can be found on our website at http://j1visa.state.gov/programs/summer-work-travel, and the regulations governing the program can be found at eCFR — Exchange Visitor Program regulations (22 CFR 62 - Exchange Visitor Program). These regulations address the most frequently asked questions about the program and provide the rules under which the program operates. The Department of State is unable to mediate disputes involving summer work travel participants, host companies, and sponsoring organizations. It is extremely important that you notify your sponsoring organization if you have any concerns and/or if the summer work travel participant's personal health, safety or well-being is being threatened in any way. If the sponsoring organization is not responsive to your concerns, please contact us directly at JVisas@state.gov.

The summer work travel program offers you, your organization, and your international visitor the opportunity to create a strong lifelong relationship. I hope this will be a positive and rewarding experience for all of you. The Department of State is deeply appreciative of your part in ensuring the program reaches its maximum potential as a quality educational and cultural exchange experience.

Sincerely,



G.K. Saba
Director, Policy & Program Support
for Private Sector Exchange