Documenting Funding for Rutgers University’s J-1 Visa Sponsorship

Funding documentation is required **only if you will not be fully funded by Rutgers** (including sufficient funds for dependents, if any). Documentation must indicate the source, amount, dates and any other terms of the funding. Documentation for visits of less than one year may be pro-rated on a monthly basis. Documentation must be in English, but the currency does **not** need to be in U.S. Dollars.

**J-1 Visiting Professors, Research Scholars, and Short-Term Scholars**

J-1 visitors in the professor, research scholar or short-term scholar category must document funding of **no less than USD 30,000 per year**. With very rare exception, personal funding may **not** be used by visiting professors or researchers except to support J-2 visa dependents. Personal funding for J-2 dependents is permitted, if needed. The minimum amount of funding documentation required for dependents is as follows: **$5000 per year for spouse; $3,750 per year for each child.** The dependent amounts are required per visit, not per year.

While the specific type of documentation will vary depending on the funding source, examples of evidence of funding might be: (1) a letter from your home university stating you (the visitor) will be on sabbatical, the amount, in foreign currency, of salary you will receive during the period that you will be at Rutgers, and that your home university supports the visit to Rutgers for educational exchange purposes; (2) a letter from a government agency or other bona fide sponsoring agency outlining the funding amount, the terms under which the funding for your educational exchange program is being granted, and the specific dates during which the funding will be provided.

If a range of funding is provided, only the lowest end of the range can be accepted unless there is documentation from the institution providing the funding which states otherwise.

**Example Situation #1:** Dr. Oberkampf plans to visit Rutgers University for one year. She does not have any dependents. During her sabbatical, she will receive USD 2,083 from her university, for a total of USD 25,000 for one year. Dr. Oberkampf does not have enough funding to support her one-year visit to Rutgers University. She must provide proof of additional funding in the amount of USD 5,000 from another bona fide educational exchange-related source (not personal funds).

**Example Situation #2:** Dr. Patel plans to visit Rutgers University for 7 months, along with his wife and child. He is receiving USD 2,700 per month (USD 18,900 total) from a national science foundation in India. He has enough funding to cover his visit in the United States. However, he does not have enough to cover his spouse and child’s visit to the United States. Since USD 2,500 per month is the required amount for him as the principal J-1 visitor, he has a surplus of USD 200 per month, or a total surplus of USD 1,400 for the 7-month visit. The amount of USD 1,400 can count towards the financial support of his wife and child, but he still needs to show an additional amount of USD 7,350 in order for his wife and child to be able to accompany him to the United States. This can be shown by a letter from Mr. Patel’s bank (in English) stating that he has at least USD 7,350 available; or a copy of his bank account statement (in English or official English translation).

If you have any questions about how to document funding for your visit, please discuss the matter with your host department at Rutgers.
J-1 Visiting Research Students

J-1 visitors in the “student” category who will come to Rutgers for research only (will not enroll in coursework at Rutgers) must document funding of no less than the appropriate amount listed below, which is different for graduate students than for undergraduate students. Whether a graduate or undergraduate student, however, personal funding may be used by visiting research students only if the visit is under the auspices of a formal exchange agreement. The formal exchange agreement between your university and Rutgers University must apply to your particular visit and must be documented by your prospective host department at Rutgers.

Personal funding for J-2 dependents is permitted, if needed. The minimum amount of funding required for dependents is as follows: $5000 per year for spouse; $3,750 per year for each child. The dependent amounts are required per visit, not per year.

Graduate students (currently pursuing a Master’s or Ph.D. at your home institution):
The amount of funding required for graduate students may be no less than USD 19,000 per year, or USD 1,583 per month.

Undergraduate students (currently pursuing a BA or BS at your home institution)
Undergraduates are permitted to come to Rutgers to conduct research only as part of a formal exchange agreement. The amount of funding required for undergraduate students may be no less than USD 15,460 per year, or USD 1,289 per month.

While the specific type of documentation will vary depending on the funding source, examples of evidence of funding might be: (1) a letter from your home university specifying the amount, terms and dates during which the home university will provide you with funding; (2) a letter from an agency of your government stating the amount, terms, and dates of government funding; (3) for students participating in a formal exchange program and therefore eligible to provide proof of personal funding, a copy of a current bank statement or letter from a bank showing that at least the amount of funding required for your J-1 visit to Rutgers is available. The statement or letter should be in English or officially translated into English; if the bank account is not in your name, the owner of the account must certify in writing that he or she intends to provide you with at least the amount required.

If a range of funding is provided, only the lowest end of the range can be accepted unless there is documentation from the institution providing the funding which states otherwise.

Example #1: Ms. Pinho has a scholarship from the government of Brazil to visit Rutgers University for one year as part of her Ph.D. program in Brazil (not a formal exchange agreement). The government of Brazil will provide her with the equivalent of USD 17,000 USD for one year during her stay at Rutgers. Ms. Pinho still needs an additional USD 2,000 in funding. She may want to (1) request the additional USD 2,000 from her government; (2) request the additional USD 2,000 from her home institution; or (3) find an additional sponsoring agency to fund the USD 2,000.

Example #2: Mr. Sikora plans to visit Rutgers University to conduct research towards his Master’s degree for four months (not a formal exchange agreement). He wants to bring his wife and child with him. He will receive USD 20,000 from his university in Poland. However, he needs to show additional funding to support his spouse and child. Since only USD 19,000 is required for Mr. Sikora as the principal J-1 visitor and he is receiving USD 20,000, he has a surplus of USD 1,000. This surplus can count towards his spouse and child, but he still needs to show an additional amount of USD 7,750 in order for his wife and
child to be able to accompany him to the United States. This can be shown by a letter from Mr. Sikora’s bank (in English) stating that he has at least USD 7,750 available; or a copy of his bank account statement (in English or official English translation).

If you have any questions about how to document funding for your visit, please discuss the matter with your host department at Rutgers.