

GeoVisions

WORK/TRAVEL USA

J1 Summer Work/Travel Landlord Basics

GeoVisions – GeoVisions is the program sponsor for J-1 visa work and travel exchange visitors, and we are here to help the student if they need it. This cultural exchange program requires that students practice their English-speaking skills, work alongside other Americans in seasonal positions, and experience cultural activities while they are here for 3-4 months.

Culture Shock – Recognize that students may be nervous and require patience during the first few weeks. They are learning new words, new skills, living in a new country with new food. It is often the first time away from family. Take time to get to know students so that they clearly understand your expectations and do not make assumptions. Treat them fairly and never threaten a student.

Housing Leases – Students should tour an apartment before signing a lease and should have time to review the details of the lease. Do not have students sign a lease after a long travel day, but after they are well rested. Go over the expectations so that they are not surprised if a housing deposit is not returned or how rent is paid. International students tend to be awake later than others. Students are here for a short time, so rent is usually listed per week. Put all rules in writing and be clear about housing inspections.



Housing – Housing should be up to local codes, safe, affordable, and convenient to public transportation. There should be two exits from housing. Even if students accept it, overcrowding is not allowed. Housing should be clean when the students arrive and when they leave. Be clear about what utilities are included and what they need to pay. Students from warmer climates are used to warmer room temperatures. Programmable thermostats are helpful.

Housing Concerns – Students should have a clear way to communicate their concerns (fixing a toilet or a leak, replacing a piece of furniture, getting a new key). They should have an email address so that their concerns are in writing and you can address them in a timely manner. Contact GeoVisions in an emergency.

Transportation – Students are required to have access to transportation to get to work, grocery shopping, and local cultural activities. We recommend that students should walk no more than ½ mile to any of these things. Bicycles are often used to get students within 3 miles of work, but bicycle helmets and safety are a must! Make sure students know how and where to access public transportation.

Internet – Students are required to check in with GeoVisions as their J-1 visa sponsor, so access to the internet is required. Please assist students. If it is not available at the housing, they need it available at work.

Travel Period – Students may travel a maximum of 30 days around the US after the end date on their DS-2019 form, but they are not authorized to work after the end date on their DS-2019 form. They must return home in time for their University classes.