



TRAINING 4 HOSPITALITY

Overview of Bridge-USA (J1)

Intern/Trainee Programs

The US State Department welcomes international Culinary and Hospitality talent to the US through the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program (Bridge-USA). Bridge-USA programs attract around 300,000 individuals to the United States from 200 countries and territories to study, work and train in the U.S. This temporary visa has two arms the intern and the trainee program, with no visa caps. International students and young professionals from over 10 industries—including hospitality and tourism—are eligible to apply.

Since its establishment as part of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (The Fulbright-Hays Act), the program has served as a valuable and important diplomatic tool of U.S. foreign policy. Its mission – to increase mutual understanding between Americans and people of other countries – remains vital to U.S. national security and building people-to-people connections around the world.

Training 4 Hospitality (T4H) is a J-1 mediator, focusing on Trainee and Intern Hospitality and Culinary Arts J1 programs. We identify J-1 programs and eligible candidates, then coordinate the screening, compliance/sponsorship/SEVIS/visa issuance, training outline, arrival and completion of J-1 Culinary/Hospitality programs. T4H covers both our mediation and 3rd party fees (such as sponsorship and insurance) in our program fees (appendix a), paid either by candidates or Host sites.

Hospitality/Culinary Arts J-1 Programs: During Culinary J-1 program, aspiring chefs can rotate through the different stations in a professional kitchen. In Hospitality programs, aspiring Hospitality leaders similarly rotate through front of house departments such as Restaurant outlets, Banquets, Housekeeping inspectorate/supervisor, Front Desk, Reservations etc. Programs are designed to absorb US methodologies and techniques.

Employer (Host site) Requirements: There are strict stipulations for J-1 host sites, however, the program is mutually beneficial to both the J-1 candidate for training and host site, hosting international talent. To ensure J-1 programs are compliant, each program must be approved by our designated US sponsorship partner, who both confirm and monitor J-1 programs to ensure:

1. The intern/trainee is not displacing US full time workers.
2. Host site has enough full time workers to manage host site and train J-1 candidates.
3. A greater and measured emphasis on cultural exchange.
4. A competitive (at least minimum federal/state) rate of pay, to ensure J-1 candidates can support themselves during programs. T4h can assist with this based on local housing living costs etc.
5. Have a Sponsorship approved and signed training plan (DS7002) that is progressive, structured and relevant and workable for the candidate and host site.

Training Plans DS7002: Plans must cover definite periods of time and consist of definite phases of training or tasks performed with specific objectives in each phase. The plans must also contain information on how the exchange visitors will accomplish those objectives (for example, classes, individual instruction, and shadowing). Each phase must build upon the previous phase to show a progression in the training.

Examples of training plans can be found here, our team are also happy to schedule a DS7002 consultation with T4H or our sponsorship partners:

<https://www.training4hospitality.com/training-guide>

J-1 Intern/Trainee candidates

All candidates, both interns and trainees must either be enrolled or graduated from full time hospitality/Culinary education or have relevant, non USA, work experience, to be eligible. As the Intern program is aimed for undergraduates and trainee program for graduates/young professionals, there are different criteria when submitting training plans for approval.

Intern (undergraduate/recent graduate)

For 12 month programs, there must be 3 -4 progressive phases, within departments. Intern programs are eligible for undergraduates/recent graduates of tertiary courses.

Eligible courses can include but not limited to:

HND/BSC/BA Food and Beverage Management

HND/BSC/BA Hospitality Management

HND/BSC/BA Tourism Management (Front office only)

HND/BSC/BA Culinary Arts

HND/BSC/BA Restaurant Management

HND/BSC/BA Gastronomy

Trainee (Graduates): This program must be more advanced due to more experienced and graduated applicants (from similar courses to the above). Trainee plans will have 4+ progressive training phases within the department, the final stage would be a supervisor level of training.

2nd J-1 students:Typically, after completing a 1st J-1 program either as an intern or trainee, the candidate must return home for at least 2 years before starting a 2nd j-1 program. During this 2-year period the candidate must also attain 12 months full time non-USA work experience in the department of their training. The training in a 2nd J-1 program cannot replicate or repeat any training done in their first program. So, placement can be more difficult for second J-1 candidates, please note, T4H do not have available programs for second J1 trainees.

How to start Hosting a J-1 Program: J-1 programs can start at any time of the year and last 6 to 12 months. With all hands on deck, T4h can ensure arrivals within 3 months of a J-1 outline. However, Programs are best delivered with enough time to prepare housing/travel/recruitment so we ask for up to 12 months in advance.

How to start Hosting a J-1 Program: If you meet the above criteria for Host Sites you can contact our team for a J-1 consultation at Info@Training4Hospitality.com

Further reading about our programs can be found on our Host Hub website:

<https://www.training4hospitality.com/j1host>

APPENDIX A

Total Fees for all US Programs (T4H mediation, sponsorship fees, insurance)

Total Fees for 12 months: \$3,545 USD divided in two payments

- Program application: \$200, payable within 7 days after T4H screening interview. They can pay on www.training4hospitality.com/pay-deposit via PayPal/Bank wire (for fairs/partner schools this is not necessary).
- Remaining Program fees: \$3,345 payable within 7 days after Hotel placement has been secured. We invoice for this amount, and it can be paid with a bank transfer.

Pre-Financed Programs: candidates are required to pay for mediation, flights and possible housing deposits which can lead to several thousand USD\$. Due to this, some of our J1 Host sites offer to finance/pay part or all of the up front or other program costs, such as full mediation/sponsorship/flights/housing, which can also be later paid back in the U.S. as long as it is within a budgeted/affordable deduction.

Refund Policy Full Fees & Pre-Financed Fees: The amount T4H retains depends on when the candidate drops out. There are different amounts for different scenarios:

1. Dropout after T4H screening/placement consultation and deposit has been paid: \$100 drop out fee (out of the \$200 deposit, \$100 is refundable)
2. Dropout after offer letter from a hotel has been issued: \$550 drop out fee (\$200 deposit + \$350 of fees)
3. Dropout after DS2019 visa forms are issued: \$1,150 drop out fee. This total drop out fee is not only for T4H but also covers the visa sponsor drop out fees. Refunds are only issued after the DS2019 form has been mailed back to the U.S.
4. Dropout because of visa denial: \$1,150 drop out fee. This total drop out fee is not only for T4H but also covers the visa sponsor drop out fees. Refunds are only issued after the DS2019 form has been mailed back to the U.S.