

## 2 (TWO)-YEAR HOME COUNTRY PHYSICAL PRESENCE REQUIREMENT

This page provides information on the 2-year home country physical presence requirement that applies to many J-1 Students, Professors, Short-term Scholars, Research Scholars, *and* their J-2 dependents. Whether or not you are required to spend 2 years in your home country after your visit in the U.S. will depend on very complex and sensitive issues; this page explains the basics of the requirement but should not serve as a legal reference.

### **Intent of the 2-year home stay requirement:**

The intent of the requirement is to have your home country benefit from your Exchange Visitor experience in the United States. Exchange Visitors come to the U.S. for a specific objective such as a program of study or a research project. The requirement is intended to prevent a participant from staying longer than is necessary to complete the objective and to ensure that he or she will spend at least two years in the home country before coming back to

**Waiver of the requirement:**

Five grounds exist for waiving the 2-year homestay requirement:

- 1) Exceptional hardship to your spouse or unmarried minor child who is a citizen or permanent