J-1 Host Company Eligibility Requirements

In order for international interns to train in the U.S., they must have the appropriate training visa, and Cultural Vistas is a U.S. Department of State designated sponsor for the J-1 Intern and Trainee visa. As part of the visa application process for Cultural Vistas’ Train USA Program, please ensure your company meets the following eligibility requirements:

- Host Company intends to utilize the J-1 visa solely to provide a cultural and career learning experience for participants and NOT for employment purposes.

- Host Company must offer participants robust and meaningful training opportunities that are in line with the participant’s educational and professional experience.

- Internship or training program must be at least 32 hours per week. No more than 20% of the participant’s time can be spent on unskilled or clerical tasks.

- Host Company must have sufficient resources and knowledgeable staff available to conduct the training, and willingness and capacity to mentor an international participant.

- Host Company can present proof of workers’ compensation or proof of exemption.

- Host Company must provide continuous on-site supervision of participants and their program activities and provide feedback to facilitate the participant’s development.

- Host Company must have been incorporated and in operation for at least one year.

- The company must have a minimum of 5 full-time staff at the company and at the training site. Host Company ratio of J-1 participants to employees at the training location should not exceed 10%. Companies that have 10 or less full-time employees may only host one J-1 participant at a time. 
  (Note: We will not be able to count contractors, part-time employees, remote employees, or employees that are frequently off-site (i.e. outside sales) towards the minimum requirement)

- Host Company that has assisted its participants in obtaining a change of visa status in the past may not be eligible for sponsorship in the future.
All new host companies are subject to a $300 new host company fee. All companies who have either never worked with Cultural Vistas or who have not yet completed a successful training program through our organization within the past three (3) years will be required to pay a registration fee. (A successful program is defined as a program during which both the mid-term and final evaluations were completed as required). This fee covers the research Cultural Vistas does to ensure your company is reputable; to make certain your company meets the standards that are outlined by U.S. Department of State for all J-1 Visa host companies; and to guarantee that you understand your responsibilities as a U.S. host company to a J-1 Visa holder (this includes training, supervision, evaluations to be completed by trainee and supervisor, etc). This fee is non-refundable and cannot be paid by the participant.

Programs in these areas are not eligible for sponsorship as Interns or Trainees:

- Flight training.
- Performing arts including dance instructors.
- Positions involving more than 20% clerical activity.
- Positions of unskilled labor.
- Positions that receive tips as a part of compensation.
- Positions involving clinical or medical patient care or contact including dentistry, child/elder care, veterinary medicine, doctors, nurses, psychological therapy, cosmetology, sports coaching or physical therapy, speech therapy or social work. This includes pre-schools and day care centers.
- Programs involving the use of staffing agencies or unauthorized recruiters.
- Programs at economy hotels, fast food restaurants, bakeries, home offices or retail sites.
- Programs at camps or residential facilities.
- Programs in the field of construction, carpentry, electricians, plumbers or similar in-home installation services or auto body shops.

A site visit will be necessary if the company has fewer than 25 employees and makes less than 3 million in annual revenue. If a company has fewer than 25 employees but at least 3 million in annual revenue — and can provide proof of this — a site visit may not be necessary. Please note, however, that we may require the site visit as a part of the vetting procedures in some instances, based on the information provided on the application.