

FAQs for J-1 Student Hosts on Cape Cod

1. What is the J-1 Visa Program?

The J-1 Visa is a temporary, non-immigrant visa that allows international college students to live and work in the U.S. as part of a cultural exchange program. This program promotes knowledge-sharing and cross-cultural understanding. Participants are top students from various fields such as economics, architecture, engineering, and business. They work for 12-14 weeks during their school break and then travel for an additional 2-4 weeks.

2. What types of jobs do J-1 students typically have?

J-1 students can work in various **entry-level, seasonal positions**, including:

- Retail associates
- Waitstaff and kitchen staff
- Counter service and ride operations
- Housekeeping and maintenance
- Dishwashing

Jobs must be **seasonal, entry-level, and provide meaningful interaction with Americans**, giving students opportunities to practice English and share their culture.

3. What are J-1 students studying in school?

Students come from diverse academic backgrounds, including medicine, engineering, architecture, accounting, and economics. Many choose careers that benefit their home country, such as architecture in post-war regions to aid rebuilding efforts.

4. Do J-1 students speak English?

Yes, all students must meet minimum English proficiency requirements to participate in the program. Their time in the U.S. helps improve their English skills, and living with an American host can significantly enhance their language learning.

5. What are the housing requirements for hosts?

Housing for J-1 students must meet the following standards:

- Clean, safe, and affordable accommodations
- Within **5 miles** of the student's workplace
- Beds must be on frames (not on the floor)
- Basement rooms must be **finished** and have a walk-out exit
- Space for storing clothes and a suitcase

6. How do I find students to host?

Students often look for housing through the **Hello Summer J1 Cape Cod** Facebook group. When you're ready to rent out a room, join the group and post your available space.

7. How much should I charge for rent?

Rent is set by the host and depends on the housing conditions. Most hosts charge around **\$150 per student per week**.

8. Can I host multiple students in one room?

Yes, as long as there is enough space for multiple beds or bunk beds. Some hosts accommodate students who travel in pairs or groups, while others host students who meet for the first time and build lasting friendships.

9. When do J-1 students arrive and leave?

Students arrive on a rolling basis, starting **before Memorial Day through late June**. Most begin departing **mid-August through late September**.

10. What Cape Cod towns need hosts?

J-1 students need housing **across Cape Cod**, from **Provincetown to Falmouth**.

11. Do I need to supervise J-1 students?

No, these are responsible young adults who have been carefully vetted for the program. They are expected to respect your home and follow reasonable household rules. However, cultural differences may require some initial alignment—for example, setting expectations about cleanliness, such as washing dishes daily and taking out the trash weekly.

12. Do I need a lease?

While not required, a written **lease agreement** is recommended to clarify expectations between the host and student.

13. Should I collect a security deposit?

A security deposit is **not required but recommended**. If no damages occur, the deposit should be **fully refunded at the end of the stay**.

14. Am I responsible for providing meals?

No, students are responsible for their own groceries and meals. However, some hosts enjoy cooking occasional meals together, allowing for cultural exchange.

15. Is WiFi required?

Yes, WiFi is **mandatory**. Students need it to communicate with family, employers, and their sponsor organizations. Many do not purchase U.S. SIM cards and rely on social media and internet-based calls.

16. Can I host if I have pets?

Yes! Most students love pets. If you're concerned about allergies, we can help match you with students who are comfortable around animals.

17. What are my liabilities as a host?

J-1 students are required to **purchase medical insurance** before arriving in the U.S. This is handled through their sponsoring organization, so hosts are not responsible for medical expenses.

18. What are the benefits of hosting a J-1 student?


Hosting is a **rewarding experience** for individuals and families, particularly empty nesters or retirees. It provides cultural exchange, companionship, and a chance to learn about different parts of the world. Many hosts stay in touch with their students for years!

Beyond the personal rewards, **there is also a financial benefit**—rent payments can help offset housing costs.

19. Who should I contact if I have an issue with a student?

Each J-1 student has a sponsoring agency responsible for their welfare. Upon arrival, **make copies of their sponsor's contact information** and report any issues directly to them. Sponsors are required to:

- Maintain monthly contact with students
- Provide a **24/7 emergency hotline**
- Address any concerns regarding health, safety, or program violations

 If there is a serious **health or safety** concern, contact the **U.S. State Department J-1 Visa Hotline** at 1-866-283-9090 or email jvisas@state.gov.