U.S. Immigration Responsibilities for J Scholars

Although the OISS is here to help you understand and comply with US immigration regulations, maintaining legal immigration status is the responsibility of the individual exchange visitor. If you have any questions, please ask an OISS advisor. Once you have read the document, please sign the International Scholar Check-in form to confirm that you have read, understood and received the US Immigration Responsibilities handout.

Please read each statement CAREFULLY and put an X in the box to indicate that you have read and understood each statement:

☐ Update your local address with the OISS within 10 days of moving. You can email bcis@bc.edu

☐ Maintain the required health insurance coverage. All J-1 scholars are required to have insurance which meets the U.S. Department of State requirements. This is a very serious requirement. If you do not obtain the appropriate insurance you will be in violation of your J-1 status. A handout outlining this information was sent with your DS-2019. If you need a new copy of this information please ask the OISS.

☐ Obtain travel signatures for travel outside of the U.S. If you will travel outside of the U.S., you must have your DS-2019 signed by an OISS advisor in order to return to the U.S. in J-1 status. Travel signatures are valid for one year (Canadian citizens require a signature every six months). If you need to apply for a new visa, you should get a new travel signature even if your current one is less than a year old.

☐ Do not accept any compensation for employment outside of your J-1 responsibilities at Boston College without first consulting the OISS. Your J-1 visa has very specific rules about employment. Please consult the OISS if you have any employment related questions.

☐ Report any changes in your BC appointment. Tell the OISS if you will leave BC earlier than the date on your DS-2019, transfer to another university in the near future or need an extension past the end date on your DS-2019 form. Extensions and transfers must be requested BEFORE your DS-2019 expires.

☐ Observe grace periods. You have 30 days to prepare to leave the U.S. after your DS-2019 form expires.

☐ Keep copies of all DS-2019 forms for your future reference. If you apply for an immigration benefit in the future (even many years in the future!) you could be asked for copies of your past immigration forms.

☐ Check your email account regularly. The OISS will send emails occasionally with important notices, updates and other immigration information.

NOTE: Please keep this document for your reference. This document outlines only basic immigration regulations, but is not inclusive. All regulations are subject to change so it is very important that you check the email you provided on the check-in form for updates from the OISS.