

October 2026

J-1 STEM Initiative Seed Grant Opportunity for Colleges and Universities

The International Student Resource Center (ISRC) is pleased to offer a seed grant opportunity for colleges and universities seeking to launch a J-1 STEM Initiative sponsorship program. Terms of this sponsorship process can be found on the **BridgeUSA website**.

This sponsorship program allows academic institutions to process J sponsorships for international students, interns, specialists, or researchers offered a position with a STEM company in the United States. These sponsorships can serve the institution and the community in various ways:

- To support current researchers or students with a J-1 visa option;
- To build public-private collaborations between academia and industry;
- To expand experiential learning pathways for interns, scholars, specialists, graduating students and postdoctoral scholars.

If awarded, the institution would receive a one-time grant of $2,000 from the International Student Resource Center to support financial costs relating to the legal, marketing, and promotion of the J sponsorship program.

Deliverables:
The academic institution awarded a grant will need to provide

1. A progress update in July of 2027 (1 to 2 pages)
2. A final summary report to the ISRC by the end of fall term, 2027 on the implementation efforts, including
    a. the number of host organizations engaged
    b. the number of international researchers sponsored;
    c. an analysis of what worked well; what obstacles were encountered;
    d. any plans for the program moving forward.

More information on J-1 opportunities can be found in the **J-1 STEM Sponsorship Playbook** published by the International Student Resource Center.

Interested parties may submit an application **here**.
Grant applications will be accepted through December 2, 2026.

Questions? Contact **robin.catmur-smith@renphil.org**