

**Tuesday
June 2, 2026**

OPA / ISSS Meeting

Very Important News!!!!!!

Sharon will on vacation:

- Out on Wednesday, June 10th to Friday, June 12th and returning on Monday, June 15th
- Out on Friday, July 3rd to Friday, July 10th and returning on Monday, July 13th
- In an emergency, contact Joan McGinley at joan.mcginley@temple.edu

Gabby will be out of the office on July 3rd and July 6th, but she will most likely still be checking her email.

Before your J Exchange Visitor submits an Advisory Opinion or a Waiver Application

- J Exchange Visitor should speak with Gabby in ISSS [gabriella.pavlakis@temple.edu] before submitting anything
- Know that if the Waiver Review Division has made a favorable recommendation to the waiver request, ISSS cannot extend the J Exchange Visitor's Program. Your J scholar may, however, complete the current J program period
- If your Department hopes to sponsor the J Exchange Visitor for H-1B status, inform your J-1 to read the information on the next slide (available at <https://global.temple.edu/j-exchange-visitor-two-year-home-residency-requirement>) before they submit an Advisory Opinion request to the US Department of State
- Understand that ISSS may not assist with J-1 Program Waivers as the US Department of State believes this to be a conflict of interest for J program sponsors
- Some waiver applications can be quite complicated. Your J-1 may wish to [consult with an immigration attorney](#)

**Important
Reminder
About
International
Travel**

If your J scholar asks for leave to travel back to their home country, PLEASE tell them to talk with Gabby before they leave the US.

Please direct your H-1B, TN, E-3 and O-1 Employees to speak with Sharon before they depart the US.

Currently, International Travel is very risky.

Requiring an Advisory Opinion Application?

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- If the H-1B applicant has J-1 documents indicating “not subject”, the Department will need to decide if they would like to move ahead with an H-1B Petition or if they will require the H-1B applicant to obtain an Advisory Opinion first.
 - Timing will be critical as Advisory Opinion Decisions are the Department of State is taking months to adjudicate them.

Advisory Opinions and H-1B Petitions

If Temple University will sponsor you for an H-1B petition, and if your J Documents indicate that you are NOT SUBJECT to the Two-Year Home Residency Requirement, we have two choices:

- 1) we submit the H-1B petition without an Advisory Opinion, hoping that USCIS will accept our argument that you are not subject to the Requirement based on your immigration documents OR
- 2) we submit the H-1B petition with an Advisory Opinion indicating that you are not subject to the Requirement

The issue with applying for an H-1B petition without an Advisory Opinion is that USCIS may issue a Request for Further Evidence (RFE) asking for an Advisory Opinion / Waiver. This will significantly delay the H-1B approval. If the Department of State indicates in an Advisory Opinion that you are subject, we would not be able to respond to the RFE in time as waivers can take at least a year.

The issue with applying for an Advisory Opinion is that the US Department State may find that you are subject to the Requirement. In that case, we could not file an H-1B petition until you have a waiver. A waiver can take a year or longer. Note that if you have reached the maximum amount of time in J-1 status, you would not be able to transition to H-1B in the US. Consular Processing an H-1B from outside the US now requires a fee of \$100,000 so that is likely not an option for you.

Both options have risks. You and your department will need to run a cost/benefit analysis and decide what works best for you and your department.

<https://global.temple.edu/j-exchange-visitor-two-year-home-residency-requirement>

LinkedIn and other Social Media Accounts

Please reach out to your F-1s, J-1s, H-1Bs, TNs, O-1s and E-3s to review their LinkedIn Profile. It should match their CV and it should reflect only employment for which they had proper work authorization.

Embellishing their LinkedIn / CV can lead to trouble as US Government Agencies are scrutinizing social media accounts, including LinkedIn.

Actual Wage and Controlled Tech Forms

No need to send the Actual Wage Form or Controlled Technology Form through TUSafesend as these forms do not contain sensitive information.

DOL Proposal to Change Prevailing Wage Levels

March 27, 2026: The Department of Labor published a proposal that would change the methodology it uses to calculate Wage Level 1 through 4 prevailing wage determinations used in the H-1 B, H-1B1, E-3, and PERM (EB-2 and EB-3) programs to address what the administration asserts to be the current system's undercutting of U.S. worker wages.

<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20260326-0>

This new methodology does not account for the Actual Wage – i.e., we have to pay the higher of the Actual Wage and the Prevailing Wage. Be aware that, unless the position is covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement, you may not be able to pay the new wage rates if the Department of Labor follows through on their plan.

Importance of SOC Code on LCA

The Department of Labor is now authorized to instigate its own H-1B investigations.

Secretary-certified investigations, as well as other H-1B-related investigations, are important tools the department will use in [Project Firewall](#) to hold employers accountable and protect the rights of American workers. **Violations may result in the collection of back wages owed to affected workers, the assessment of civil money penalties, and/or debarment from future use of the H-1B program for a prescribed period of time.**

New Questions on Form I-129

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- **What level of education is required for the position? ***
 - **What field(s) of study would qualify someone for this position? ***
 - **How many years of experience are required to qualify for this position? ***
 - **What special skills are required to qualify for the position? ***
 - **How many people will the beneficiary supervise and what are their position titles? ***

ISSS Job Description for Post Doc and Faculty Positions

You can find this form at

<https://global.temple.edu/sites/global/files/media/document/ISSS%20Job%20Description.docx>

This form will open in Word. Be sure to complete the form in Word then upload it to DestinyOne in Word Format.

New Edition of Form G-1450

Please use the latest version of Form G-1450.
It is available at

www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/forms/g-1450.pdf

The main change is that the form now
requires the security code found on the back
of the credit card.

Credit Card Information	
Credit Card Number	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Credit Card Expiration Date (mm/yyyy)	CVV Code
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Form G-1450 Edition 02/06/26



New Edition of Form G-1450

[Form G-1450: Paying Fees by Credit Card](#)

[G-1450 Form, Authorization for Credit Card Transactions](#)

[Sample G-1450 Form](#)

[Instructions](#)

- Do not include all fees in one G-1450. You must submit a G-1450 for each fee
- Do not list the applicant's name on the form. Instead, list "Temple University" in the "Given Name" field and leave "Family Name" blank
- Make sure that you list the correct card number and expiration date
- Be aware of daily limits on your card...ask Accounts Payable for a temporary exception if you are concerned you will not have enough money on your card
- USCIS will not accept a stamped, typewritten name or a digital signature in place of an original "wet" signature. You must sign the forms with a black pen then scan the forms and send them to ISSS through TUSafesend. You can access TUSafesend through TUPortal
- Keep the original forms in your possession per USCIS regulations

Processing Times

Please also note that there are no exceptions to the established appointment processing timelines outlined below:

- Plans to invite a **Postdoctoral Fellow (domestic, U.S.-based)** must be submitted at least **1 month prior** to the initial start date. The appointment package must be complete prior to submission to my office.
- Plans to invite a **Postdoctoral Fellow in J-1 status (U.S.-based)** must be submitted at least **1 month prior** to the start date, with a complete appointment package, including the candidate's record in DestinyOne, before submission. The one-month timeline begins once the completed application is ready for submission to ISSS and OPA.
- Plans to invite a **Postdoctoral Fellow in J-1 status (outside the U.S.)** must be submitted at least **2 months prior** to the start date, with a complete DestinyOne record. The two-month timeline begins once the application is complete and ready for submission to ISSS and OPA.
- Plans to invite a **Postdoctoral Fellow Research Associate in H-1B status (outside the U.S.)** should be submitted **3–4 months in advance**, with a strong recommendation of **6 months ahead**.
- Plans to invite a **Postdoctoral Fellow Research Associate in H-1B status (inside the U.S.)** should be submitted at least **2–3 months prior** to the start date.
- Plans to invite a **Visiting Research Scholar or Visiting Research Scholar in Residence (J-1, outside the U.S.)** must be submitted at least **2 months prior**, with a complete DestinyOne record. The two-month timeline begins once the application is ready for submission to ISSS and OPA.
- Plans to invite a **Visiting Research Scholar or Visiting Research Scholar in Residence (domestic, U.S.-based)** must be submitted at least **1 month prior**, with a complete appointment package (and DestinyOne record if applicable for international candidates). The one-month timeline begins once the application is ready for submission to ISSS and OPA.
- Plans to invite a **Visiting Graduate Student Scholar (U.S.-based)** must be submitted at least **1 month prior** to the start date, with a complete appointment package.
- Plans to invite a **J-1 Graduate Student Intern (outside the U.S.)** must be submitted at least **2 months prior** to the start date. The two-month timeline begins once the completed application is ready for submission to ISSS.

Additional Note: Controlled Technology Reviews (CTF) currently take approximately **two weeks** to complete. Reviews begin only after I have approved the appointment and notified ISSS. Please factor this timeline into your planning. You may also submit the CTF form to ISSS in advance, as ISSS will coordinate the review process prior to appointment submission.

- There have been instances where new appointment and reappointment requests are submitted with only **two weeks or less for processing**, which does not allow sufficient time to complete required reviews and approvals. Please ensure that all submissions adhere to the timelines outlined above.

HIRING PROCESS REVIEW FOR POSTDOCTORAL APPOINTMENTS

- Friendly reminder that all new incoming Postdoctoral appointments and reappointments continue to be subject to the current hiring freeze.
 - That said, fully grant-funded Postdoctoral appointments are exempt from the hiring freeze and do not require a hiring exception approval.
 - **However, if the Postdoc appointment is within LKSOM, the LKSOM Hiring Review Form must still be completed, as the Dean continues to review and approve all LKSOM positions.**
- For any Postdoctoral appointments that do require a hiring exception, please ensure that the approved exception documentation is included when submitting appointment materials via tusafesend to the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs. Including this documentation upfront will help prevent delays and keep the review process moving smoothly.

New NIH Salary Schedule for Postdoctoral Fellows for fiscal year 2026/2027

	Years of Experience	Stipend for FY 2026	Monthly Stipend
Postdoctoral	0	\$63, 480	\$5, 290
Postdoctoral	1	\$63, 900	\$5, 325
Postdoctoral	2	\$64, 380	\$5, 365
Postdoctoral	3	\$66, 948	\$5, 579
Postdoctoral	4	\$69, 180	\$5, 765
Postdoctoral	5	\$71, 748	\$5, 979
Postdoctoral	6	\$74, 424	\$6, 202
Postdoctoral	7 or More	\$77, 076	\$6, 423

Please use the above salary minimums for new appointments and reappointments effective as of July 1, 2026.

Here is the direct link to the NIH announcement:

[NOT-OD-26-044: Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award \(NRSA\) Stipends, Tuition/Fees and Other Budgetary Levels Effective for Fiscal Year 2026](#)

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS REMOTE WORK OUTSIDE THE U.S.

- Effective immediately: new postdoctoral appointments may only begin when the scholar is physically present in the United States and on campus.
- Applies to all new postdoctoral fellows, regardless of funding source or visa status.
- Postdoctoral scholars may not begin their appointment or engage in postdoctoral work while residing outside of the U.S.
- Scholars must be physically present, affiliated with Temple University, and fully eligible before the appointment begins.

**POSTDOCTORAL
FELLOWS
REMOTE WORK
OUTSIDE THE U.S.
(Continued)**

- For J-1 appointments, federal regulations require physical presence in the U.S. before the appointment and visa process can officially begin.
- Remote work outside of the U.S. prior to the start of a postdoctoral appointment is not permitted.

POSTDOCTORAL
FELLOWS
REMOTE WORK
OUTSIDE THE U.S.
(Continued)

Flexibility for Current
Postdocs:

- Current postdoctoral scholars may work remotely *when appropriate work can be completed away from campus*, and both departmental and Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA) approval have been obtained.

**Immigration
session with
Romina Gomez,
Senior
Associate, from
Klasko
Immigration Law
Partners, LLP**

- Applying for US visa stamps (F-1, J-1, H-1B primarily)
- Requesting Admission to the US at a US Port of Entry
- Importance of Maintaining Immigration Status once in the US
- Immigration compliance requirements once in the US
- Know your Rights if you are approached by ICE, CBP, HSI

Wednesday, June 3rd at 1PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://temple.zoom.us/j/9472474760?pwd=awU0uGt5orHk115hjaY4tUbEyOF185.1&omn=95215634931>

Meeting ID: 947 247 4760

Passcode: Scholars

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,9472474760# US

+19292056099,,9472474760# US (New York)

Temple Ambler Campout September 26 and 27

Join Temple Ambler under the stars for a night of camping, tours, s'mores and more from 2 p.m., Saturday, September 26, through 9 a.m. Sunday, September 27.

The Campout celebrates camping as a way to connect with nature and wildlife. The benefits from outdoor play for mind, body and spirit are well-documented and foster lasting bonds that promote happiness and good health.

We invite you to spend the night tent camping at Temple Ambler, going on nature walks, taking part in camping workshops, stargazing and listening to the stories by the campfire!

Learn more about the Campout at ambler.temple.edu/campout

The Temple Ambler Campout is being held in partnership with the Temple Ambler Field Station, the Ambler Arboretum of Temple University, and Recreation, Outdoor Education & Wellness at Temple Ambler.

Sign Up for Information at

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=74FucSK1c0SOMRC9Asz25XOH5U07YZNNhWYLBUpAKbdURUUxUEhLUUJPSDdXU0xKR0ExTFJUU1hDQy4u&route=shorturl>

No OPA/ISSS Meetings in August and September

Our next meeting will be held on July 1st at 10 AM as Sharon will be on vacation at the normally scheduled time.

We will suspend the meetings for August and September so that everyone can enjoy their vacations and focus on Fall 2026.

**Questions or
Comments?**