

## Visa Extensions for Visiting Colleges or Touring

Some students want to extend their stay for travel or college. A J-1 visa cannot be extended beyond 11 months for ANY reason. Students may stay for their 10 months and an additional 30 days without any paperwork – a “Free grace period” from U.S. Immigration.

Any student planning to attend college in the U.S. must first be accepted by a college. School guidance counselors are trained to help with this. The accepting college will complete an I-20 form (visa application to sponsor a foreign student at their university).

**The J-1 Visa can't be converted.** Students must go home and reapply with the I-20 form at the American Consulate in their country. The Consulate Officer will issue an F-1 Student Visa. (This is different than the J-1 Visa.)

Parents wishing to have PEACE provide insurance or supervision during a college stay in the U.S. should contact our office directly.

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### Extended Stays

1. Secure a letter from your natural family stating that they are giving you permission to extend your stay and are willing to pay any additional costs. A date of return must also be given.
2. Secure a letter from your host family stating their willingness to allow you to extend your stay and the length of stay.
3. Write a letter yourself telling us why you want to stay and why it would be valuable to you.