

Department of State

§ 62.9

(1) Offer or make available to exchange visitors a variety or appropriate cross-cultural activities. The extent and types of the cross-cultural activities shall be determined by the needs and interests of the particular category of exchange visitor. Sponsors will be responsible to determine the appropriate type and number of cross-cultural programs for their exchange visitors. The Department of State encourages sponsors to give their exchange visitors the broadest exposure to American society, culture and institutions; and

(2) Encourage exchange visitors to voluntarily participate in activities which are for the purpose of sharing the language, culture, or history of their home country with Americans, provided such activities do not delay the completion of the exchange visitors' programs.

§ 62.9 General obligations of sponsors.

(a) *Adherence to Department of State regulations.* Sponsors are required to adhere to all regulations set forth in this part.

(b) *Legal status.* Sponsors shall maintain legal status. A change in a sponsor's legal status (e.g. partnership to corporation) shall require application for designation of the new legal entity.

(c) *Accreditation and licensure.* Sponsors shall remain in compliance with all local, state, federal, and professional requirements necessary to carry out the activity for which they are designated, including accreditation and licensure, if applicable.

(d) *Representations and disclosures.* Sponsors shall:

(1) Provide accurate and complete information, to the extent lawfully permitted, to the Department of State regarding their exchange visitor programs and exchange visitors;

(2) Provide only accurate information to the public when advertising their exchange visitor programs or responding to public inquiries;

(3) Provide informational materials to prospective exchange visitors which clearly explain the activities, costs, conditions, and restrictions of the program;

(4) Not use program numbers on any advertising materials or publications intended for general circulation; and

(5) Not represent that any program is endorsed, sponsored, or supported by the Department of State or the United States Government, except for United States Government sponsors or exchange visitor programs financed directly by the United States Government to promote international educational exchanges. However, sponsors may represent that they are designated by the Department of State as a sponsor of an exchange visitor program.

(e) *Financial responsibility.* (1) Sponsors shall maintain the financial capability to meet at all times their financial obligations and responsibilities attendant to successful sponsorship of their exchange visitor programs.

(2) The Department of State may require non-government sponsors to provide evidence satisfactory to the Department of State that funds necessary to fulfill all obligations and responsibilities attendant to sponsorship of exchange visitors are readily available and in the sponsor's control, including such supplementary or explanatory financial information as the Department of State may deem appropriate such as, for example, audited financial statements.

(3) The Department of State may require any non-government sponsor to secure a payment bond in favor of the Department of State guaranteeing all financial obligations arising from the sponsorship of exchange visitors.

(f) *Staffing and support services.* Sponsors shall ensure:

(1) Adequate staffing and sufficient support services to administer their exchange visitor programs; and

(2) That their employees, officers, agents, and third parties involved in the administration of their exchange visitor programs are adequately qualified, appropriately trained, and comply with the Exchange Visitor Program regulations.

(g) *Appointment of responsible officer.*

(1) The sponsor shall appoint a responsible officer and such alternate responsible officers as may be necessary to perform the duties set forth at § 62.11.

(2) The responsible officer and alternate responsible officers shall be employees or officers of the sponsor. The Department of State may, however, in its discretion, authorize the appointment of an individual who is not an employee or officer to serve as an alternate responsible officer, when approved by the sponsor.

(3) The Department of State may limit the number of alternate responsible officers appointed by the sponsor.

§ 62.10 Program administration.

Sponsors are responsible for the effective administration of their exchange visitor programs. These responsibilities include:

(a) *Selection of exchange visitors.* Sponsors shall provide a system to screen and select prospective exchange visitors to ensure that they are eligible for program participation, and that:

(1) The program is suitable to the exchange visitor's background, needs, and experience; and

(2) The exchange visitor possesses sufficient proficiency in the English language to participate in his or her program.

(b) *Pre-arrival information.* Sponsors shall provide exchange visitors with pre-arrival materials including, but not limited to, information on:

(1) The purpose of the Exchange Visitor Program;

(2) Home-country physical presence requirement;

(3) Travel and entry into the United States;

(4) Housing;

(5) Fees payable to the sponsor;

(6) Other costs that the exchange visitor will likely incur (e.g., living expenses) while in the United States;

(7) Health care and insurance; and

(8) Other information which will assist exchange visitors to prepare for their stay in the United States.

(c) *Orientation.* Sponsors shall offer appropriate orientation for all exchange visitors. Sponsors are encouraged to provide orientation for the exchange visitor's immediate family, especially those who are expected to be in the United States for more than one year. Orientation shall include, but not be limited to, information concerning:

(1) Life and customs in the United States;

(2) Local community resources (e.g., public transportation, medical centers, schools, libraries, recreation centers, and banks), to the extent possible;

(3) Available health care, emergency assistance, and insurance coverage;

(4) A description of the program in which the exchange visitor is participating;

(5) Rules that the exchange visitors are required to follow under the sponsor's program;

(6) Address of the sponsor and the name and telephone number of the responsible officer; and

(7) Address and telephone number of the Exchange Visitor Program Services of the Department of State and a copy of the Exchange Visitor Program brochure outlining the regulations relevant to the exchange visitors.

(d) *Form DS-2019.* Sponsors shall ensure that only the responsible officer or alternate responsible officers issue Forms DS-2019;

(e) *Monitoring of exchange visitors.* Sponsors shall monitor, through employees, officers, agents, or third parties, the exchange visitors participating in their programs. Sponsors shall:

(1) Ensure that the activity in which the exchange visitor is engaged is consistent with the category and activity listed on the exchange visitor's Form DS-2019;

(2) Monitor the progress and welfare of the exchange visitor to the extent appropriate for the category; and

(3) Require the exchange visitor to keep the sponsor apprised of his or her address and telephone number, and maintain such information.

(f) *Requests by the Department of State.* Sponsors shall, to the extent lawfully permitted, furnish to the Department of State within a reasonable time all information, reports, documents, books, files, and other records requested by the Department of State on all matters related to their exchange visitor programs.

(g) *Inquiries and investigations.* Sponsors shall cooperate with any inquiry or investigation that may be undertaken by the Department of State.