

**German.
American
Chamber of
Commerce**

J-1 Introduction

**David Tarsha
J-1 Visa Program
Careers & Education**



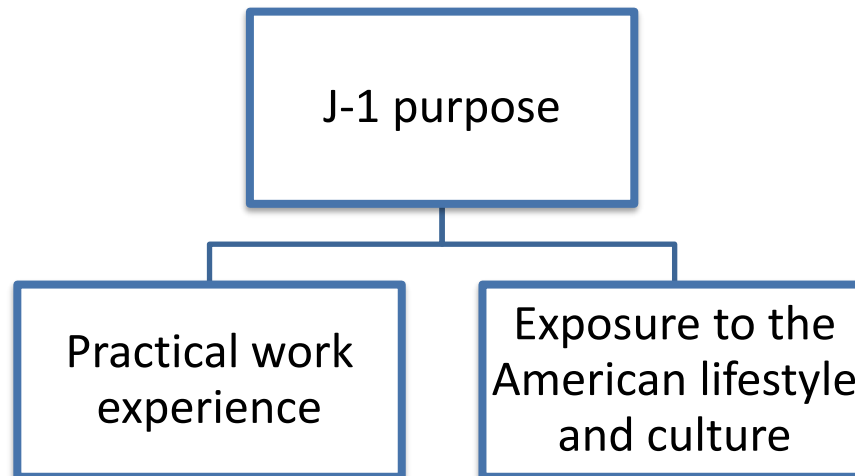
GACC IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT



130 locations - 90 countries – Promoting global business relationships through our member network of more than 45,000 international companies worldwide

Careers & Education

Since 1997 authorized by the U.S. State Department to support interns/trainees from German universities and Fachhochschulen as well as vocational interns/trainees doing an Ausbildung with the J-1 visa.



What we do



What is the J-1, what is it not?



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J-1 visa is...



- A cultural exchange visa
- Great for students to get practical experience
- Temporary
- Used for: Business, Finance, Law, Engineering, Architecture, Marketing, Logistics, Technology, Research...

J-1 visa is not...



- A work visa
- For unskilled positions
- Used for immigration
- Used for: Health and Medical, Arts & Culture, Academic or Government Sectors
- For Management positions

Time and Pay

- As short as 3 weeks, as long as 12 months for interns
- Paid in US or abroad
- Unpaid are limited to 3 months
- If paid in the US, it must follow the local minimum wage
- 32 to 40 hours a week



Title and Employment

- Only 'intern' or 'trainee'
- One-to-one
 - One J-1 to one internship
- Cannot apply for other jobs
- Cannot apply for another visa
- Cannot change employer
- Second J1 is possible after developing since the first



Members and Clusters

- GACC Members and internship ads are on our website
- [Industries] of America
- [Industry] Alliance
- If that industry is present in your city of choice
- Careers page of the company's website

Job ad websites

- Indeed
- LinkedIn
- Glassdoor
- ZipRecruiter
- CareerBuilder
- SimplyHired



Finding a host company



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Search engine and maps

- Keep an Excel list of your search terms and results
- Use maps and 'search in this area' in case a company is overlooked
- “German Companies in NYC”

AI tools

- Providing Chat GPT with detailed prompts to find helpful examples
- Refining your search after each result
- Follow up with browser

Search terms	Company	HR Email	Phone	Job Link
German American Marketing in USA				
	German American Marketing	jobs@philachristmas.com	123-456-7890	https://www.philachristmas.com
	German Delights	hr@germandelights.de	212-555-8888	https://www.germandelights.com

Americanize your resume

- One page
- No pictures or personal info
- No graphs, charts, or images
- Everything in simple past
- Use numbers to show how much
- Example:
 - Issued over 120 J1 applications in the first year, with an increase of 30% in the second year.
 - Organized monthly social events for 30 people or less across New York City.
 - Collaborated with over 70 companies in the USA and Germany bilingually.



Making Contact



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Apply directly to the internship

Check list of what and when

- + Shows that you follow directions
- Might be rejected outright if the employer is unfamiliar with J1
- Will have to wait for a reply
- Hard to stand out

Contact HR or Recruiting

Prepare a guide/script for cold calls and emails

- Will have to deal with rejections
- + Pitch the benefits of an exchange program
- + Provide a timetable to match the J1 process
- + Show them your 'go-getter' spirit



The J1 application



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Order of Operations

- Register 3+ months in advance
- Submit your documents 10 weeks before the start date
 - Get feedback and resubmit
- Make sure your host is on track
- GACC provides visa sponsorship (SEVIS number)
- Finalize your case 8 to 6 weeks before the start date
- Make a consulate appointment
- Arrive in the US and check-in with GACC



The J1 application



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What does the GACC need?

1. GACC Application Form
2. Enrollment Confirmation / Degree
3. Health insurance
4. Motivational letter
5. Resume and Lebenslauf
6. Two references
 - a) Academic, professional, personal
7. Financial Security Statement
8. Copy of passport
9. Online interview

We offer bilingual services!



1. [Members in GACC NY network](#)
 - a) Check Chicago, Atlanta, and San Francisco, too
2. [Current job ads with members](#)
 - a) Apply and save the company in your search
3. [About Us](#)
 - a) Learn more about the GACC
4. [Registration](#)
 - a) Get the process officially started
5. [Step-by-step](#)
 - a) Additional info to set expectations



AHK

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Thank You!



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