



MEMORANDUM

To: All VEF Fellows

Cc: VEF Staff

From: Kien Pham, Executive Director

Date: December 1, 2005

Subject: Policy on J-2 Dependents

This is to inform you about our policy on bringing J-2 dependents to the U.S. This memorandum supersedes all previous written or oral communication from VEF on the subject.

Since U.S. graduate training for a Fellow can last up to 5 years, we would like to help you keep your immediate family together. That said, you should consider waiting for one full academic year before bringing your family to the U.S. This allows you sufficient time to adjust to the new demanding environment and better prepare your family for what to expect in the U.S., including the need for English proficiency by your spouse.

For the purpose of J-2 regulations, your family members are defined as your legal spouse and unmarried children under 21 years of age. No one else is qualified as your J-2 dependent.

You are responsible for all financial support and arrangements for your family members, including visa fees, travel, living expenses, health insurance, and schooling. Under U.S. regulations, you must show to VEF proof of sufficient financial resources as well as legally required health and accident insurance for dependents.

IMPORTANT: Some U.S. insurance companies might consider a prior-to-arrival pregnancy as an uncovered pre-existing condition. You must weigh this situation carefully as health care in the U.S. is extremely expensive. Verify your health insurance policy regarding the conditions for family coverage when you decide on the timing of your spouse' arrival.

Procedures for Application:

1. You must complete the online "**Application for J-2 Visas for Accompanying Dependents**" available at www.vef.gov/veffellows and upload the following documents:
 - a. Marriage certificate for spouse and birth certificates for children.

- b. Copy of passport biodata pages for all J-2 dependents (Note: the passport must be valid for at least one year from the date of visa application.)
- 2. Proof of financial resources to support your dependents while in the U.S.
 - a. Provide the amount listed by your university as the minimum financial requirement annually for dependents during their stay in the U.S. by:
 - i. Giving the university's webpage address for this information; or
 - ii. Submitting a letter from the office of international student services which verifies the amount necessary for dependents.
 - b. Provide bank statements under your and/or your spouse's name for the previous six months.
- 3. Proof of your plan to buy a health and accident insurance policy in the U.S. for your dependents that meets the following minimum requirements:
 - a. Medical benefits of at least \$50,000 per person per accident or illness;
 - b. Repatriation of remains in the amount of \$7,500;
 - c. Expenses associated with the medical evacuation to one's home country of at least \$10,000.
 - d. A deductible that does not exceed \$500 per accident or illness.

VEF reserves the right to interview your J-2 dependents in person or by phone.

We will notify you of our decision within four weeks after your application submission and issue the DS-2019 for your J-2 dependents to you during the following four weeks.

Your dependents will apply for a J-2 visa on their own.