

# THE FULBRIGHT-HAYS ACT AND THE J-1 VISA



The French-American Chamber of Commerce promotes the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, also known as the [Fulbright-Hays Act](#). This Act provides the legal basis for the existence of the J-1 visa. All J-1 Exchange Visitors should use the following **mission of the Fulbright-Hays Act** as a guideline for their experience in the United States:

*“The purpose of this chapter is to enable the Government of the United States and the people of other countries by means of **educational and cultural exchange**; to **strengthen the ties** which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States and other nations, and the contributions being made toward a more peaceful and more fruitful life for the people through the world; to promote **international cooperation for educational and cultural advancement** ; and thus to assist in the **development of friendly, sympathetic, and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of this world.**”*

**All J-1 Exchange Visitors are expected to take part in American cultural activities** on a regular basis in order to successfully complete their intern and trainee programs, thereby achieving the mission of Fulbright-Hays.

Furthermore, pursuant to this act, all J-1 Exchange Visitors are expected **to leave the United States following their program** to share their experience with others and further the cultural mission of this visa. Seeking employment in the United States directly after a J-1 visa is a **direct violation** of this Act.