

J-1 Annual Report Questions

1. Did you host any J-1 exchange visitors during the period of 07/01/2022 to 06/30/2023? If so, what kinds of activities did they engage in (such as studying, lecturing, performing research, etc.)?

Response: None.

2. List all active agreements you have with foreign universities that could result in students or scholars coming through our J-1 program and indicate if it's a new (this 2022/23 year) or extended agreement. Please elaborate on how these agreements are facilitating exchange. Please email me scanned copies of these agreements.

Response: Please see BSU's agreements here:

<https://bluefieldstate.edu/resources/international-initiatives/international-partners>

UNICENTRO, Brazil (extended agreement); discussions underway to have their students coming to BSU in 2023-2024.

Resubmitted joint application to EU to support Mobility Project of BSU and University of Applied Sciences Wurzburg-Schweinfurt, Germany; awaiting verdict.

3. Did you have any J-1 exchange visitors come to your institution during the 2022-23 period who came on DS-2019s issued by a third-party (IIE, Fulbright, IREX, etc.)? If so, please elaborate.

Response: 2 third-party J-1 Exchange Students from Germany (CBYX) and 2 FLTAs for Arabic and Russian (whose J-1 was sponsored by USDOS/IIE).

4. List the various cross-cultural activities you offered on your campus during the 2022-23 period that were attended by international students and scholars and promoted cross-cultural awareness. Examples: holiday events, attendance at sporting or musical events, excursions, luncheons, conferences, etc. Elaborate on each activity (one or two sentences at most). Please email me scanned copies of flyers or handouts that were used for these activities.

Response:

Fall 2022

Passport to the World—free passports provided to BSU students
(<https://bluefieldstate.edu/resources/international-initiatives/passport-to-the-world#no-back>)

Language courses in Arabic and Russian for BSU students and the community (

Courses on Moroccan and Russian Cultures, Traditions, and Norms for BSU students and the community [FLTA for Arabic Mohammed Bouknify shared Moroccan foods and teas to students of social science courses and Honors Scholars periodically.]

Congress to Campus featuring former Congressmen Nick Rahall (WV) and Peter Smith (VT) who discussed legislation related to US Foreign Policy with numerous students and faculty across the disciplines (<https://bluefieldstate.edu/resources/international-initiatives/congress-campus>)

Joint celebration between BSU's International Student Organization and the City of Bluefield (Chicory Square) on October 22 featuring foods from 18 countries

Recruited International Student Ambassador Selena Poljak (for international student recruitment) and Study Abroad Student Ambassador Lindsey Neal (funded by UISFL grant) to recruit BSU students and faculty's participation in Canada and Washington, D.C.

Spring 2023

Passport to the World—free passports now given ONLY to students enrolled in languages courses/international studies degree program
(<https://bluefieldstate.edu/resources/international-initiatives/passport-to-the-world#no-back>)

Language courses in Arabic and Russian (see sample flyers included with the email)

Courses on Moroccan Russian Cultures, Traditions, and Norms (see sample flyers included with the email)

Darion Aiken, former Consul General US Embassy in Germany spoke about internships and career opportunities to students in several classes on March 7

Study Abroad Student Ambassador (funded by UISFL grant) to recruit BSU students and faculty's participation in Canada and Washington, D.C.

5. Discuss some of the issues you have encountered as you have operated the J-1 program on your campus. For example, you may want to discuss how you went about providing orientation to new international students and scholars. Please email me scanned copies of any documents you created or used for

administering the program, such as a copy of your orientation slides or handbook specific to your campus.

Response: *No issues arose pertaining to the J-1 Exchange Scholar Program because BSU has yet to take advantage of this opportunity.*

6. Discuss what has been your biggest difficulty implementing the J-1 program that work against the quality and quantity of exchanges in your program and in the broader Exchange Visitor Program. Examples: Credible employers, job availability, wages, housing, Consular Affairs/Visa issues, etc.

Response: *Not applicable.*

7. Discuss your plans for the future. Are you planning to implement any new initiatives in the upcoming year?

Response: *Existing and future Agreements: Design study abroad curricula in different fields for students of partner institutions, possibly after approval to issue visas to Visiting International Students is authorized or by using the J-1 visa for customized short-term study at BSU.*

Custom design study abroad/virtual exchanges for BSU students at partner institutions (e.g., KNRTU, UNASA, UNICENTRO) after selected BSU complete the Global Competence Certification.

New Agreements: None in the immediate foreseeable future.

Third Party Exchange Students:

Approved: 2 Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange participants to come to Bluefield State in 2023-2024.

Four Global UGRAD students (from Laos, Malaysia, Ukraine, El Salvador) in spring 2024.

Third party Exchange scholars/professors (CIES/IIE Outreach Lecture Fund): Opportunities for in-person visits to BSU will be explored with the support of IIE's Outreach Lecture Fund.

Engage in Mobility Project to Mexico and Canada in second year of UISFL grant (with WVSU, and WVHEPC).

Membership in the newly established StudyWV Consortium

Possibly host visiting Spanish instructor from UNICENTRO, Brazil.