



The Academy—a program of Carnegie Hall, The Juilliard School, and the Weill Music Institute in partnership with the New York City Department of Education

## VISA INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

As an international applicant we thought you should be aware of the following information regarding obtaining a visa for participation in Ensemble ACJW—The Academy, a program of Carnegie Hall, The Juilliard School, and The Weill Music Institute in partnership with the New York City Department of Education—prior to your audition. Please make sure to read the following information thoroughly.

### **Before the audition:**

International applicants who are not currently residing in the U.S. will need to obtain a B-2 visa at the United States Embassy or Consulate in their country of residence for the purpose of participating in auditions held in the U.S. Please make sure to have the term “Prospective Student” annotated on the visa. Nationals from countries under the Visa Waiver Program who are not required to have a B-2 visa to enter the U.S. should request B-2 status with “Prospective Student” annotated on the I-94 card (e.g. Arrival/Departure Records), which is obtained at the U.S. port of entry.

### **Upon admission:**

All international Ensemble ACJW Fellows are required to apply for a J-1 exchange visitor visa upon acceptance. To qualify for a J-1 exchange visitor visa an applicant must have a residence in a foreign country which he or she has no intention of abandoning, and must be coming to the U.S. to study, teach, engage in research, etc.

International applicants who are currently in the United States and are engaged in post-completion Optional Practical Training (OPT), or who plan to apply for OPT upon graduation from their current school, are eligible for admission in the program on their current or future OPT F-1 status. **Please note that OPT is valid for only one calendar year.** In order to continue in Ensemble ACJW for the second year, you will need to obtain a DS-2019 form from the International Advisement Office (Suite 245) at Juilliard no later than 60 days *prior* to your OPT expiration date. Please consult with your school’s international advisors about applying for an initial J-1 visa or OPT status, or changing your current status to J-1.

The U.S. Department of State designates program sponsors to conduct and implement exchange visitor programs. The International Advisement office at The Juilliard School has been designated as an exchange visitor program and will issue documents for Ensemble ACJW Fellows to apply for the J-1 visa. Upon admission, international applicants will immediately need to apply for a Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1 status), or DS-2019. The International Advisement Office (IAO) will prepare a DS-2019 with directions for its use in applying for a J-1 visa.

You can enter the U.S. up to 30 days prior to the official appointment start date on your J-1 visa or up to 30 days after. You cannot enter the US outside of this timeframe; your J-1 visa will no longer be valid. If you get a J-1 visa and fail to enter the US and register within the specified dates, you may not be able to easily obtain another visa.

Ensemble ACJW Fellows receive a stipend for the duration of the program. Actually receiving the funds is contingent upon successfully applying for a US. Social Security Number (SSN). Fellows can apply for the SSN card 10 days after their arrival in the United States or 10 days after the official start date on the J-1 visa,

881 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10019 | [acjw.org](http://acjw.org) | 212.903.9600

whichever occurs first. The International Advisement Office at Juilliard can assist with this application. After submitting the application, it usually takes 1 to 2 weeks to receive a Social Security card. Unless your country has a tax treaty with the US, you will have to pay federal income tax which will be deducted from your stipend check. You will also have to file a U.S. federal tax return. The IAO and the Juilliard Business Office are resources for information on this.

Finally, please be aware that Ensemble ACJW will not, under any circumstances, sponsor International applicants or fellows for any type of visa other than the B-2 (Prospective Student Visa) or J-1. Please feel free to contact Juilliard's International Advisement Office if you have questions or concerns about any of the information in this letter or about your present visa status.

Information on J-1 visas is available at [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types\\_1267.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1267.html)