

PONTES FAQs

What type of visa do I need to participate in the PONTES program?

PONTES participants are sponsored for a J-1 visa, which begins with the issuance of the Form DS-2019. It will be a visiting scholar visa valid only for the period that covers your PONTES appointment. B visas (tourist visas) do not authorize the scholarly activities required for this Purdue visit.

What is the expected workload per week?

The visiting scholar appointment is a full-time appointment that requires activities for 40 hours per week.

Am I allowed to, in my free time, enroll in some courses/classes at Purdue?

Unfortunately, this is not possible. The J-1 visa is for conducting research activities with your hosting faculty/lab. *

I currently work remotely part-time. Is there any condition of "exclusivity" for the Purdue Program?

The purpose for your admission to the US is to facilitate the specific program objective outlined in the invitation to you. The J-1 visa that will be admitted to you to the USA permits only the scholarly activities that support that specific program objective with the department and host assigned to you. No other activities (at Purdue, outside of Purdue, or for organizations outside the USA) are permitted. Failure to engage in the activities necessary for the program objective, or engaging in activities not related to the program objective, could result in a violation of your J-1 status.

Can I extend my PONTES appointment?

Extensions for this program are typically not allowed. This is due to several factors, including immigration laws, restrictions on the J-1 visa, and available funding. You may remain in the US for up to 30 days after your research appointment ends, but you cannot do any activities related to your Purdue program. The 30-day period is for tourist activities, traveling within the US, and packing up to go home. Selected students will participate in an in-depth orientation with the Office of International Students and Scholars, where the procedures and regulations will be explained.

Are there new projects in the pipeline for PONTES or only what is advertised on the website?

You are strongly encouraged to select your top choices from the projects available on the PONTES website. These projects have guaranteed funding. If you do not find a suitable project, you may submit the names of faculty members or labs you are interested in. However, please be aware that there is no guarantee that these faculty members will be able to host PONTES students. We will inquire on your behalf, but outcomes cannot be assured.

If in the middle of the process of being approved, one wishes to change projects as new ones come up, would that be possible?

From an immigration perspective, all activities must connect to the program objective that underlies the entire visit and is set in stone with the issuance of the Form DS-2019. It is not possible, by law, to change the program objective.

Can you provide some housing resources?

Students will be provided with a list of resources upon selection and should not begin to arrange for housing until their selection has been finalized. To get a sense of available options, the following website may be useful: [Off-Campus Housing](#).

**Occasionally a hosting faculty member may request that a student informally “sit-in” on a class. This activity would not be transcribed.*