



## Early Career STEM Research Initiative

Following the July 2021 *Joint Statement of Principles in Support of International Education* between the Department of State and the Department of Education, BridgeUSA is pleased to announce the launch of the Early Career STEM Research Initiative.

The joint statement highlights the U.S. government's renewed commitment to international education, including the need to support research and innovation. This Initiative connects BridgeUSA sponsors to STEM businesses across the United States. Once a BridgeUSA sponsor is matched with an eligible host organization (e.g., private or public company, laboratory, etc.), the Sponsor will connect eligible exchange visitors to the host organization for the duration of the exchange visitors' programs. Eligible J-1 categories are: Research Scholar, Short-Term Scholar, Professor, College and University Student Intern, Specialist, Intern, and Trainee.

The Early Career STEM Research Initiative will enhance BridgeUSA's person-to-person interaction, exemplifying citizen diplomacy, ensuring Americans and international visitors learn about each other's culture and way of life. BridgeUSA sponsors are in a unique position to positively affect the lives of future professionals across borders and build their institution's international credibility, stature, and brand.

Helpful information and FAQs can be found at [j1visa.state.gov/programs/early-career-stem-research-initiative](https://j1visa.state.gov/programs/early-career-stem-research-initiative).



**BridgeUSA**

### Sponsor Checklist

The following steps are a suggested checklist to help BridgeUSA sponsors to implement the Early Career STEM Research Initiative:

- ✓ **Sign**  
Sponsor and host organization (e.g., private or public company, laboratory, etc.) sign a Statement of Interest (Template on BridgeUSA website).
- ✓ **Connect**  
Sponsors can connect with and screen host organizations (BridgeUSA can help connect sponsors and host organizations, if assistance is needed)
- ✓ **Visa Category**  
Sponsor ensures the activities are consistent with the Exchange Visitor Program category
- ✓ **Identify and Match**  
Sponsor identifies potential exchange visitors and matches them with host organizations, ensuring program objectives relates to their field of study as listed on the Form DS-2019
- ✓ **Information to Exchange Visitor**  
Sponsor provides exchange visitor with appropriate pre-arrival information and orientation
- ✓ **Monitoring and Reporting**  
Sponsor monitors the site of activity, progress, and welfare of exchange visitor in tandem with host organization and reports to the Department when necessary
- ✓ **Update SEVIS**  
Sponsor reports changes to telephone numbers, email, and U.S. addresses, and funding changes within 10 calendar days