Dear Colleagues,

In October 2014, the United States Department of State announced changes to J-1 regulations, meant to better protect program participants, which will be implemented in two phases starting on January 5, 2015. It is very important that you understand these changes, especially the revisions of insurance coverage amounts, as they may require Exchange Visitors to change their insurance plans. Even if you are not directly involved with J-1 services, it is recommended to review these updates, as they affect UCLA’s J-1 Scholar and Student population. Please see below for a summary of the changes that will directly affect J-1 holders:

- **New Reporting Requirements (effective January 5, 2015)**
  
  - J-1 Students and Scholars must report the following information to DCISS within 10 days of any change:
    
    1. Primary e-mail address or any change of primary e-mail address
    2. Personal phone number or any changes to their personal phone number

  - J-2 Dependents must now report the following information (and update DCISS within 10 days of any change):
    
    1. Primary e-mail address or any change of primary e-mail address
    2. Personal phone number or any changes to their personal phone number
    3. Departure from the U.S. if leaving prior to the final departure of their J-1 spouse or parent.

    - If the J-2 dependent is a child without a personal e-mail address, it’s acceptable to use a parent’s email address. Visitors can report these updates to DCISS by sending an email to dcissj1unit@saonet.ucla.edu.

- **Objective Measurement of English Language Proficiency for New J-1 Exchange Visitors (effective January 5, 2015)**
  
  - Any DS-2019 form issued on or after January 5, 2015 will require the student or scholar beginning a new J-1 program to demonstrate English language proficiency in one of three ways:
    
    1. A recognized English language test;
    2. Signed documentation from an academic institution or English language school;
    3. A documented interview conducted by the sponsor either in-person or by videoconferencing, or by telephone if videoconferencing is not a viable option.
DCISS is creating an English Proficiency Assessment form for department hosts to use that is compliant with the new requirement. The new form must be included with DS-2019 Request Applications submitted on or after January 5, 2015.

- **New Insurance Coverage Amounts (effective May 15, 2015)**
  
  By May 15, 2015 all J-1 and J-2 visa holders must have health insurance that meets these minimums:
  
  - $100,000 per person, per accident/illness in medical coverage
  - An annual deductible of no more than $250
  - Coinsurance that does not exceed 25%
  - Medical evacuation coverage must be at least $50,000
  - Repatriation coverage must be at least $25,000
  - Plan includes a waiting period for pre-existing conditions no longer than one year.
  - Carrier must be at least A-rated

  Coverage must begin upon arrival to the U.S. and must not end before the visitor’s final departure.

  Program sponsors are also required to notify J-1 visa holders that they and their J-2 dependents may be subject to the requirements of the Affordable Care Act.

**Important issues to consider immediately:**

- J visa holders should review their current insurance to ensure its compliance with the new coverage amounts and change coverage (if needed) prior to May 15, 2015.
- All J-1 visa holders must make sure that they have repatriation and evacuation insurance coverage meeting the new minimums.

DCISS is working with the Department of State, NAFSA and other UC offices to ensure smooth implementation of these new rules. More detailed information will be released to department administrators in December. We will keep you updated of any new changes as they occur.