



Office of International Education BridgeUSA Administrative Fee Implementation

Dear Colleagues:

Georgia Tech's BridgeUSA program is an integral component of the Institute's overarching Connecting Globally strategy. This program is designed to attract exceptional talent to our Atlanta campus, thereby fostering international collaboration, enriching educational endeavors, stimulating commerce, and supporting in-depth research on complex global issues. The Office of International Education (OIE), a unit of the Vice Provost for International Initiatives in the Office of the Provost, is designated by the U.S. Department of State to administer the BridgeUSA program at Georgia Tech. In order to better support the successful administration of this program, OIE will charge an administrative fee to program participants beginning February 1, 2025.

Reason for the administrative fees

The OIE BridgeUSA administrative fee will support the central operational costs associated with sponsoring exchange visitors at Georgia Tech. These costs include:

- Hiring and training nonimmigrant visa experts to support institutional compliance and mandatory reporting to the Department of State's Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) and to provide advising services to Exchange Visitors and their hosting academic units.
- Hosting opportunities for Exchange Visitors and their family members to learn about and engage with U.S. culture and the U.S. academic environment.
- Hosting new Exchange visitor orientation and networking events.
- Providing mandatory reporting and consultation support to Georgia Tech's academic and administrative units.
- Liaising with U.S. government entities to support institutional compliance and respond to U.S. immigration and law enforcement agencies.



Fee charges

The specific fee charges will be based on the J-1 Exchange Visitor’s program duration and their position classification of either Georgia Tech Employee or Affiliate. The definition of Affiliate is provided online at hr.gatech.edu/affiliates. Please see the fee schedule and examples below for additional details:

Exchange Visitor – GT Employed	
4 Weeks to 1 year	\$500
Each Additional Year	\$500
Exchange Visitor – Affiliate	
4 Weeks to 1 year	\$1,000
Each Additional Year	\$1,000
Exchange Visitor – Student Intern*	
4 Weeks to 1 year	\$500

Example 1: A J-1 Exchange Visitor classified as a Georgia Tech employee with a two-year program duration will be charged as outlined below:

One-year Georgia Tech employee charge: \$500
 Second-year Georgia Tech employee charge: \$500
 Total charge: \$1,000

Example 2: A J-1 Exchange Visitor classified as an Affiliate with a two-year program duration will be charged as outlined below:

One-year GT Affiliate charge: \$1,000
 Second-year GT Affiliate charge: \$1,000
 Total charge: \$2,000

*** Additional Considerations**

- J-1 Student Interns are students enrolled at an institution abroad who will engage in research or an internship at Georgia Tech for a temporary period. J-1 Student Interns are not admitted to degree programs and do not enroll in Georgia Tech classes. J-1 Student Interns are typically classified as Affiliates; however, the OIE fee will be charged to J-1 Student Interns at the Georgia Tech Employee rate.



- J-1 Student interns may participate in the BridgeUSA program for at least 4 weeks up to 1 year; extensions beyond 1 year are prohibited based on U.S. federal regulations.
- Dependent J-2 visa holders accompanying the primary J-1 visa holder are included in this fee structure; there will be no additional charge for J-2 dependent visa holders.
- The OIE BridgeUSA administrative fee will not be charged to J-1 degree-seeking students admitted to Georgia Tech and enrolled in coursework.
- Existing Exchange Visitors present at Georgia Tech before February 1, 2025, will not be charged fees for extension through the end of their program participation.

Fee Collection

Institutional units can choose to either pay the administrative fee or pass the charge on to the incoming Exchange Visitor. OIE will collect the fee at the point of the initial request to host the Exchange Visitor. The fee assessed will correspond with the type of Exchange Visitor (Employee or Affiliate) and the program duration. If an Exchange Visitor requests to extend beyond the original program duration, the OIE BridgeUSA administrative fee will be charged as part of the extension request and the fee rate will be based on the type of Exchange Visitor (Employee or Affiliate) and the new length of program duration.

Fee Exemption

It may be possible to request a fee exemption in extenuating circumstances (e.g., war, natural disaster) and in cases when the Exchange Visitor is providing core undergraduate teaching.

Please see the [institutional policy](#) for more information about Hosting Exchange Visitors. Questions can be emailed to OIE at jscholars@oie.gatech.edu.