Dear Colleagues (Faculty Hosts and Department/College Administrators),

The Code of Federal Regulations governing the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program (22 CFR 62.11(a)) requires Responsible Officers (ROs) and Alternate Responsible Officers (AROs) to "Be thoroughly familiar with the Exchange Visitor Program regulations and the Department of State’s current Codebook and Instructions for Responsible Officers."

New changes to these regulations expand this to require ROs and AROs to say:

“if ROs and AROs work with programs with an employment component, they also must have a detailed knowledge of federal, state, and local laws pertaining to employment, including the Fair Labor Standards Act.”

The effect of this is that the GRU RO and ARO must more closely monitor GRU’s compliance with federal, state and local laws pertaining to employment with regard to the administration of the GRU J program. As such, you will see;

- Revised and additional J-1 forms which require different supporting documents
- Some limitations in the employment/funding options for GRU Exchange Visitors

It is important to remember that the purpose of the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program is to foster global understanding through educational and cultural exchanges. The employment of J-1 Exchange Visitors is “incident to status.” In other words, employment is not the primary purpose of the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program. Exchange visitors are expected to return to their home country upon completion of their program in order to share their exchange experiences.

Thank you for your continuing good work on behalf of GRU.