

Lifespan Visa Services

Hospital-based researchers with concurrent appointments at Brown, have access to visa services available at the University. [Please note: This service agreement does not cover services for clinical staff at Lifespan.]

We outline here some of the basics that will help you to navigate the system, and identify some ways to get additional information as needed.

Which visa?

This is sometimes a complicated question, but the most common options are J-1 or H-1B visas.

J-1

Under the umbrella of Brown's Exchange Visitor visa authority, researchers and scientists may get a J-1 visa. This visa category has a maximum duration of five years, and other limitations that deserve careful consideration as researchers are being hired. Once appointment processes are concluded production of visa eligibility forms normally take no more than a week.

H-1B

An alternative is the H-1B visa. This specialty worker visa is commonly used for appointments of longer duration [it is available in 3 year segments, and a total aggregate of 6 years]. To qualify for this visa a position must meet a prevailing wage test, and other fair employment practice standards. A standard application can take several months to process, but can be expedited by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for an additional fee of \$1000 (premium processing).

How to:

The hiring unit should follow regular hospital appointment procedures, but concurrently seek a **joint appointment** through the Office of Medical Faculty Affairs at Brown. Lin Collette 401-863-1623 will be able to help you. Fax: 863-3378

Consultations:

If you have questions about visa services please call OISSS at (401) 863-2427. Individual appointments are available.