



**United States Department of State**

*Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs*

*Washington, D.C. 20520*

December 5, 2012

Dear Summer Work Travel Sponsors:

Please find attached the revised and approved Summer Work Travel (SWT) Program Date Chart for Winter 2012 and Spring/Summer 2013. The Department appreciates your patience while we finalized this product. We have taken into account numerous comments, suggestions, and appeals. Please make note of the following:

- This chart creates an even playing field as all sponsors must comply with the same country-specific dates.
- The listed program dates provide a window of opportunity for program participation, **based on the country where a student is studying**. The chart captures the date range during which eligible SWT participants may take part in the SWT program. Please note students are still subject to their university's break schedule.
  - o For example: John Doe is studying in Turkey. His window of opportunity to participate in the program is from May 15-October 1, but John does not get out of school until May 30<sup>th</sup> and his first day of class is September 25<sup>th</sup>. John may only take part in the program from May 31<sup>st</sup> -September 24<sup>th</sup>. He may not miss class to engage in the SWT cultural exchange program.
- Generous leave from universities is not permissible.
  - o For example, a letter that either a student or university submits granting the student permission to miss class time to participate in the SWT program does not supersede the regulations that allow students to participate only during their official summer breaks.
- Sponsors are responsible for ensuring that students are studying at accredited academic institutions.
  - o For example, full-time enrollment in a vocational program does not qualify a student to participate in the SWT program.
- Final year students are subject to the program windows and their university's break schedule, without exception.
  - o For example, John Doe, studying in Turkey, graduated on May 30<sup>th</sup>. The school from which he graduated resumes classes on September 25<sup>th</sup>. John's program end

date cannot extend beyond September 24<sup>th</sup> even though he is not returning to school.

Please remember that the purpose of the [SWTSponsors@state.gov](mailto:SWTSponsors@state.gov) email address was created as a way for SWT sponsors to communicate with us directly and efficiently. Do not share this address with foreign agents, universities, and the general public. Please restrict use of this email address to the approved RO and ARO(s) of your sponsoring organization. As set forth in the regulations “22 CFR 62.11(c) Responsible officers and alternate responsible officers shall conduct the official communications relating to the exchange visitor program with the Department of State, the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, or the United States Department of State...” Therefore, the Department will only conduct business with the designated members of your sponsoring organization. Foreign agents, universities, and/or other members of the general public requesting a place to comment, may write to [JVisas@state.gov](mailto:JVisas@state.gov).

If you have any questions, please contact us at [SWTSponsors@state.gov](mailto:SWTSponsors@state.gov). Thank you for your interest in and support of international educational and cultural exchanges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Eckenrode', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Eckenrode  
Director  
Office of Private Sector Designation