

Dependents  
To Posts and Commissions:

Concerning bringing dependents, the Humphrey Program's overall policy is that Fellows must wait about a month before bringing any dependents so they can get settled and devote their full attention to the program. The exception to this rule is those Fellows who are single parents and must bring their children with them. However, there is a review and approval process that the Fellow will have to go through with the host campus coordinators before we are able to issue a DS-2019 for the dependent(s). The Fellow will need to send documentation to his/her university showing that

- 1) health insurance have been purchased that meets J-visa regulations for the dependent(s);
- 2) the Fellow has the finances to support the dependent(s) above and beyond what the Fellow is receiving under the Humphrey Fellowship award; and
- 3) (for dependent children under 15, the Fellow has to prove that there is a plan in place for child-care and the funding to pay for a care-giver when the Fellow is involved in Humphrey Program activities (some of which will require the Fellow to be away from dependents for a week or more).

If the Fellow intends on starting this approval process now, s/he should not apply for a visa yet. If the Fellow has already received a visa, we will not be able to issue a DS-2019 for the dependent(s) (meaning that the dependents won't be able to come with the Fellow) until the Fellow has entered the U.S. and been validated in the SEVIS immigration system.

Aside from the processes outlined above, we do want to make sure the Fellow understands that the Humphrey Program is quite rigorous and the Fellow will have to be away from his/her dependents in the evenings and for up to a week or more at a time a few times during the year. We don't want to discourage the Fellow from bringing dependents, as it can be quite an enriching experience for a family. However, we think it is very important that the Fellow has the resources and support in place at the outset so that the Fellow can fulfill all of his/her obligations as a Humphrey Fellow.

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The Humphrey Program's dependent policy, which is new this year, is a policy, **not a recommendation.**

Your life as a Humphrey Fellow will not be that of a graduate student with regular hours and a predictable schedule. You will travel frequently to network with your American

counterparts and undertake a Professional Affiliation for at least six weeks, which may be far from your home. Your obligation to your colleagues will necessitate that you attend evening sessions and meetings with them and socialize with them throughout the year. I hope that your coordinator and I have given you a better understanding of what being a Humphrey Fellow entails and why we are concerned that you have adequate child care so that you may take full advantage of your Fellowship year. We also request that you comply with the University of XXX's arrival date for dependents, as we are asking other Fellows to do.

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Here are the regulations set by the Department of State and implemented by IIE.

**(Information taken from the Fellows' Handbook)**

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Dependents

The Program does not provide funds for dependents. You are responsible for providing clothing, medical insurance, educational fees, and international transportation for your family. The salary you may continue to receive in your home country (if transferable to the U.S.) may not be enough to cover these expenses. IIE estimates that dependents cost a minimum of \$500 per person per month. Affordable childcare for young children is often difficult to find. When planning your family's flight to the U.S. please keep in mind that IIE must follow strict guidelines when planning Fellows' travel-home itineraries. IIE cannot guarantee you a return-home itinerary similar to your family's, especially if your family is traveling on non-U.S. airlines.

Your dependents may join you on your host campus on the date your coordinator designates, usually 30 days after your arrival. **Please do not plan on bringing them with you.\*** Your Coordinator will also give you information about available housing for families, mandatory childcare arrangements, school regulations, etc.

Although your family may not accompany you when you arrive at your campus, you may begin collecting the documents necessary to bring them to the U.S. as early as you wish. If you plan to bring your family with you, or have them join you during your Fellowship, you must send several documents to IIE to support your request for obtaining the DS-2019 forms (Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor Status, see page 35 under J-1 regulations) they will need to apply for J-2 visas. These include:

The IIE *Information on Dependents Form* [Available on line from [iie.org](http://iie.org)]

Proof of funding (bank statement, certified letter of adequate funds from a financial institution) [total amount must be equal monthly to \$500 for your wife, \$500 for each child over the age of two, and \$200 for each child under the age of two] ; and Proof of insurance coverage that meets State Department regulations [for all your dependents]. The medical requirements are:

- (a) \$50,000 per person per accident or illness;
- (b) \$7,500 for repatriation of remains; (3) at least \$10,000 for medical evacuation;
- (c) A deductible of \$500 or less per accident or illness.

You are responsible for ensuring that your dependents are enrolled in an adequate health insurance plan that meets State Department regulations. **Failure to maintain adequate insurance coverage for your dependents may result in termination of your grant.**

Your host campus may require other documentation, for university and state regulations often differ about the minimum age young children may be left alone, budget requirements for families, etc. Your coordinator will collect these documents from you and check that they are complete before sending the material on to IIE. However, IIE will not be able to enter your dependents' data into the new electronic system, known as SEVIS, until you have arrived in the U.S. and IIE has confirmed your home address [That will be your campus address which will be assigned when you arrive in August.].

If all the supporting documents you send to IIE are complete, IIE will contact the U.S. Embassy or Fulbright Commission in your home country and inform them of your request. If the Embassy or Commission approves of your request, IIE will enter your dependents' data into the SEVIS system, process their DS-2019 forms, and mail them to the Embassy or Commission. This process usually takes one to two weeks.

**The final decision as to whether dependents will receive visas to the U.S. is determined by the U.S. Consulate, NOT by IIE.** Neither the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy nor IIE grant visas for dependents. IIE only processes the required papers so that the U.S. Consulate may consider granting visas for dependents.

You must consult with IIE regarding any change in status of your dependents, including any pregnancy resulting in a baby born during the Fellowship Year. Occasionally, changes in a dependent's status may affect your ability to fulfill the requirements of the Fellowship as set forth in the Terms and Conditions of the Grant Award. A Fellow who is unable to fully meet the terms of the Fellowship during that year may have his/her grant revoked.

Prior to arriving on campus, Fellows whose family or health circumstances may prevent them from fully participating in the program (e.g. pregnancy or other serious health condition) may qualify for a one-year deferral of their Fellowship.

**END OF IIE REGULATIONS**

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