

To,
Concerned Authority,
Department of State,
United States of America (USA)

Madam/Sir,

Request for change of J-1 VISA Category and Extension due to travel restrictions from COVID-19 pandemic

With due respect, I, Amitabh Yadav (Citizen of India, Passport Number: N1490483) would like to inform you about my current status of stay in the United State of America (USA). I arrived in San Francisco, USA on October 30, 2019 to participate in the research project titled, 'Quantum Pattern Recognition for High Energy Physics (HEP.QPR)' for 6-months (November 1, 2019 - April 30, 2020) at the Physics Division of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) in Berkeley, California. After completion of the program, I intended to go back to my home country on May 4th, 2020. However, the travel regulations by the international airlines and the in effect international entry-restrictions by the Government of India, did not allow me to leave on the scheduled departure date.

My research at LBNL focuses on application of Quantum Computers in Particle Physics that could help in the discovery of new fundamental particles by analysis of complex data originating from the ATLAS Experiment at CERN, Geneva. Quantum Computers being a new and largely a strange form of computation, the development of such applications requires more time and engagement. To facilitate this, the lab has allowed an extension for my current appointment. Therefore, I wish to continue working on the research and obtain favorable results. More information about our team's work is also published at LBNL website at: <https://newscenter.lbl.gov/2020/01/29/particle-physics-turns-to-quantum-computing-for-solutions-to-tomorrows-big-data-problems/>

In the current circumstances of associated risks of travel during the COVID-19 lockdown and the associated travel restrictions introduced by the Government of India, I am currently unable to travel back to my home country. Therefore, I would like to sincerely request you to allow the change of status for my current visa, J1 (Short Term Scholar) to J1 (Research Scholar) and allow for an extension. I would then, upon completion of the program, travel back to India.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my application,

Sincerely,
Amitabh Yadav
Research Associate, Physics Division
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory,
Berkeley, CA 94720, USA.