

February 19, 1959

Dear Lois:

Thank you for the information. I have sent it on to the proper office here and you should get a favorable confirmation very soon. The Exchange Visitor Program is very simple: you do appreciate the specific limitation that you will not (ordinarily) be allowed to return to the US for permanent residence for 2 years after the expiration of your visa. In effect the University assumes responsibility for you, and this greatly simplifies the procedure. Keep in mind that Australia and the US are the two countries that make perhaps the greatest fuss about immigration, so you are probably accustomed to much more than other countries.

I am pretty optimistic about setting up a decent salary for you too. The main snag may be the timing, i.e., I won't be able to get you a cash advance, but if you have accumulated or can borrow enough for the trip I don't doubt you should be able to pay for most of it out of your savings here by year-end. Also, tax will probably be withheld at something like 30 pc. of net income, but you will be paying probably closer to 15 pc., and you will get a refund after the year. This is one form of more or less obligatory saving!

I suppose you don't have to have the visa in hand so long beforehand but you should have definite assurance that no further documentation will be needed from Stanford and that there will be no snags in your getting the visa on time.

The weather here is theoretically ideal: in fact the winter is about like Sydney or a bit warmer, and alternating fine and wet. We get about 15-20" of rain here per annum, none of it between April and November. Last week we could see some snow on the hilltops nearby, (about 2500' altitude). All this is in strong contrast to Wisconsin, which had some 20°(F.) temperatures and a foot or two of snow soon after we left. Summer is likely to be a bit on the cool side (on account of the morning fog); alternating with some hot but very dry days. The autumn (late September-early October) is likely to be hottest, with some 90-95° weather, but dry enough to be bearable, cool nights, and mostly rather pleasant. All in all, this is supposed to have the best climate in the country, but it isn't perfect. You may need some winter togs if you mean to go skiing in the hills. The surfing's not much good-- water rather cold except in Sept-Oct and the undertow unsafe except at a few beaches, but some about 2 hrs. away by car. It's the same ocean. I hope this answers your question; if there is anything to practical advantage please don't hesitate to write.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg