

F-1 Employment Options

OPTIONS	CRITERIA AND REQUIREMENTS	MAXIMUM LENGTH	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES	DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED	FEE
On Campus Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance of lawful F-1 status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unlimited Up to 20 hours/week Full time work allowed during annual vacation and semester breaks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No permission required from International Office or USCIS Work does not have to be related to field of study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hours/week limited to 20. 	None	None
Curricular Practical Training (CPT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid F-1 status Enrolled full-time for one academic year Necessary to complete graduation requirements (part of an established curriculum) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part-time: 20 hrs /week or less Full-time: 21 hours or more per week; full-time CPT of 12 months or more disqualifies students from OPT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorization given by the International Student Advisor, not USCIS Minimal processing time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full-time employment for 12 months or more disqualifies the student from OPT Job offer required Requires course credit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPT/Co-op Application form signed by Associate Dean of your school Job Approval form Form I-20 Passport and Form I-94 	None
Optional Practical Training (OPT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enrolled full-time for one academic year One of the following four conditions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Annual vacation period Part-time while school is in session After completion of coursework (excluding thesis or equivalent) After graduation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 months For OPT before completion of studies, apply no earlier than 120 days prior to commencement of employment. Must apply for post-completion OPT prior to graduation! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More flexible and often easier to obtain than curricular practical training No job offer required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time subtracted from training after graduation if used prior to graduation 3 or more months of USCIS processing time Fee required Work must be related to the major field of study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I-765 Form I-20, passport and Form I-94 Graduation letter (for post-completion only; not necessary for PhD students) 2 photos Copy of previous EAD, if applicable 	\$180
Off Campus Work Permission – Severe Economic Hardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One academic year in F-1 status Must have made a "good faith" effort to find employment on-campus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unlimited 20 hrs/week or less during long semesters Full-time work allowed during semester breaks and annual vacations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work does not have to relate to field of study Work does not have to be on campus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fee required Must demonstrate severe economic hardship due to unforeseen circumstances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I-765 Form I-20, passport and Form I-94 2 photos Personal letter explaining financial need Letter from sponsor w/ notarized signature Supporting documentation 	\$180