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Employment Options for F-1s



Employment during F -1 Status

- On-campus employment
- Off-campus employment
- Practical Training
 - Curricular Practical Training
 - Optional Practical Training
 - Post-completion
 - 24-month STEM Extension
 - Capgap

Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

The regulations state that a student may participate in a "curricular practical training program" that is "an integral part of an established curriculum" and "directly related to the student's major area of study"

They define curricular practical training as "alternate work/study, internship, cooperative education, or any other type of required internship or practicum which is offered by sponsoring employers through cooperative agreements with the school."

Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

Eligibility

- Enrolled fulltime for one academic year
- Enrolled in an academic program and in good academic standing
- Employment must be integral to program of study
- Employment may be paid or unpaid
- No filing fee, but student must receive academic credit for the training unless the experience otherwise fulfills a graduation requirement
- Graduate students must obtain approval from Graduate School
- Part-time in Fall/Spring semesters, Fulltime during Summer
- Not eligible after completing all degree requirements

Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

- Interested? Schedule an appointment with an International Student Advisor by calling 316-978-3232 or come in during walk in hours
- No employment allowed until CPT has been authorized in SEVIS by a Designated School Official and the CPT has been issued
- Authorizations are given by semester— student may work only during authorization period indicated on I-20
- Student responsible for taking steps each semester to renew authorization
- 12 months of fulltime CPT eliminates postcompletion OPT eligibility. Parttime CPT does not accumulate

Optional Practical Training (OPT)

Postcompletion Optional Practical Training is defined in the regulations as “temporary employment for practical training directly related to the student's major area of study...ad4en (r

Optional Practical Training (OPT)

Optional Practical Training (OPT)

- Once approved, USCIS will issue you an Employment Eligibility Document (EAD), also called the OPT card.
- Employment must be fulltime and related to major field of study
- Multiple jobs allowed, as long as all relate to major field of study
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24- Month STEM OPT Extension

Eligibility

- Student must be currently be participating in standard post completion OPT at the Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctoral level
- Student must have qualifying major STEM Designated Degree Programs list available at <http://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Document/2014/stem-list.pdf> (student's major CIP code is listed on page 1 of ~~20~~ 1)
- STEM Extension is only allowed twice per lifetime
- Employer must be a registered user on E-Verify
- Employee and employer must complete Form 98B, Training Plan for STEM OPT Students
- Employer and student have multiple reporting requirements

H-1B

- Can attend school, but primary requirement is employment. Loss of job may affect status
- Employer is petitioner, employee is beneficiary
- Position must require bachelor's degree to qualify as specialty occupation
- Salary must meet prevailing wage requirement
- Cap-subject petitions must can only be filed certain times of the year, most are subject to quota
- Maximum of 6 years in H-1B status in the United States, though some

H-1B

There is a limit on the number of H-1Bs available each year. Currently that limit is 65,000 H-1B visas for those with advanced degrees and an additional 20,000 for those with master's degree or higher.

- Start of federal fiscal year is October 1. Status can be requested to 6 month in advance, i.e. April 1.
- Starting this year, employers must submit registrations March 20, 1 paying a \$10 fee for each employee they will sponsor.
- USCIS will conduct a lottery of all registrations received. Employees will be notified which employees have been selected by March 31.
- The employer will have 90 days beginning April 1 to file an H-1B petition for selected employees. Employers may not file an H-1B petition for any employee who was not selected in the lottery.
- If approved, H-1B status will not start until October 1.

Cap -

Cap-Gap Extension

- F-1 status is automatically extended through September 30 to bridge the gap between end of F status and start of H1B status on October 1
- If the student has valid OPT authorization at the time the H1B petition is receipted, OPT will be extended through September 30
- Extension is automatic, no application or filing fee necessary

Questions?

- Email liss@wichita.edu
- Schedule an appointment to meet with an international student advisor by calling 316-78-3232.
- Walk-in hours for quick questions MWF 1–4 p.m.
- Take OPT and STEM OPT tutorials on “Current Students” tab on International Education website