

OVERVIEW OF OFF-CAMPUS WORK OPTIONS FOR F-1 STUDENTS

For more information, go to: <http://www.iss.ku.edu/>

1) Optional Practical Training

- Must be in F-1 status and have been enrolled full time for two semesters (Fall & Spring) before the OPT can start
- Work must be directly related to major
- Limited to 12 months total per higher degree level
- Can be part time (up to 20 hours per week) or full time, but each requires a separate application
 - Can only be part time during academic semester (and must remain enrolled full time)
 - Can be part time or full time during official school breaks
 - Can be part time or full time once required course work is finished for Masters or Ph.D. while working on thesis, dissertation or equivalent
 - Can only be full time after completion of degree
 - If used part-time, time is deducted at half the full-time rate (i.e. four months part time = two months full time)
- Does not require a job offer to apply
- Application is made to the U.S. government (after receiving recommendation from ISS)
- Processing time varies; 2-3 months usually
- \$410 application fee

2) Curricular Practical Training

- Must be in F-1 status and have been enrolled full time for two semesters (Fall & Spring) before the CPT can start
- Work must be required or an integral part of program and directly related to major
- Pre-completion of degree only
- Academic credit **MUST** be received for the employment experience and the course **MUST** count toward degree requirements
- Employment authorization usually cannot extend beyond the end of the academic term for which credit is received
- Must remain enrolled full time during Fall & Spring semesters
- Can be part time (up to 20 hours per week) or full time (more than 20 hours per week)
- No time limit; however, if used 12 months full-time, optional practical training is forfeited
- Employment is employer specific (i.e. must have a job offer to apply)
- Application is made to ISS, Strong Hall, Room 2
- The authorization process is usually 30-60 minutes; however, it is strongly recommended that you apply at least 1-2 weeks in advance because it must meet strict eligibility requirements
- No application fee

3) Severe Economic Hardship

- Must have been in F-1 status two semesters (Fall & Spring) before the work authorization can begin
- Must be able to demonstrate severe economic hardship caused by unforeseen circumstances (must show that money on I-20 is not available for reasons beyond student's control)
- Is granted one year maximum at a time; can apply to extend
- Can work anywhere in U.S., but restricted to 20 hours per week while school is in session
- Application is made to the U.S. government
- \$410 application fee
- Processing time varies; recommended to apply 4 months before requested start date