

EMPLOYMENT CATEGORIES FOR F-1 STUDENTS IN THE U.S.

TYPES OF EMPLOYMENT	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA			HOURS PER WEEK	LENGTH OF PERMIT	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES	FORMS NEEDED FROM OIP	OTHER DOCUMENTS NEEDED	PROCEDURES
	Length in U.S. Before Applying	University Registration After Applying	Others							
ON-CAMPUS	Must have begun studies.	University registration required unless special permission is granted.	Must be maintaining F-1 status	20 during academic year; 40 during vacation period.	No limit.	Able to look for work immediately.	Campus jobs may be hard to find.	None	Valid I-20	Not needed
ECONOMIC HARDSHIP	One academic year	Must be registered during the academic year.	1. On-Campus job (see above) or Practical Training work (see below) cannot be found. 2. Financial need must be unforeseen and "severe".	20 during academic year; 40 during vacation period.	Up to 12 months (renewable).	Able to engage in any kind of work off-campus.	Hard to convince USCIS that need is unforeseen.	I-20	1. I-20; 2. I-765 3. Letter from family and school explaining the unforeseen need; 4. Two 2' by 2" passport photos; 5. Check of \$340.00 payable to U.S. Department of Homeland Security .	1. OIP processes I-20 2. Student sends the following documents to USCIS California Service Center (CSC): • Copy of I-20 and I-94 • Original I-765 • Two 2' by 2" passport photos, Check of \$340.00.
CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING	One academic year	Must be registered during the academic year.	Work must be related to field of study and be required for degree.	Can be full-time (20 hours or more per week) or part-time (20 hours or less per week)	Up to 12 months; or longer if required for degree.	1. Part-time CPT has no limit 2. CPT can be full-time during academic year 3. Time not deducted from OPT	1. Difficult to meet eligibility criteria; 2. Forfeits Optional PT if Curricular PT is done full-time for 12 months or more.	I-20	I-20; and Letters from Academic Advisor and Employer	OIP processes I-20
1. Required for degree	(see above)	(see above)	(see above)	(see above)	(see above)	(see above)	(see above)	(see above)	(see above)	(see above)
2. Co-op Education	(see above)	(see above).	(see above)	(see above)	(see above)	(see above)	(see above)	(see above)	(see above)	(see above)
OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING	One academic year	(see below)	Work must be related to field of study.	(see below)	(see below)	(see below)	(see below)	I-20	1 I-20 2. I-765 3. A support letter from the Academic Advisor 4. Two 2' by 2" passport photos; 5. Check of \$340.00 payable to U.S. Department of Homeland Security	1. OIP processes I-20 2. Student sends the following documents to USCIS California Service Center (CSC): • Copy of I-20 and I-94 • Original I-765 • Two 2' by 2" passport photos • Check of \$340.00
1. Thesis	(see above)	Registration not required if working full-time	(see above)	Can be full-time or part-time	Up to 12 months.	Can start work while finishing thesis.	Time will be deducted from the 12 months allocated for OPT	(see above)	(see above)	(see above)
2. Vacation	(see above)	Registration not required if working full-time; must register next term.	(see above)	Can be full-time or part-time	Not to exceed vacation period	Can work in Summer or Winter without using Curricular PT.	Time will be deducted from the 12 months allocated OPT	(see above)	(see above)	(see above)
3. School in Session	(see above)	Registration required	(see above)	Part-Time only	Not to exceed academic year	Can work in one's field without proving financial need.	Time will be deducted at 50% rate from the 12 months allocated for OPT.	(see above)	(see above)	(see above)
4. Post-Completion (PCPT)	(see above)	Not applicable	(see above)	Full-time only	Up to 12 months, minus any OPT time used.	Can start job immediately upon receipt of EAD; approved with or without employment.	Strict limit of 12 months aggregate on all forms of OPT.	(see above)	(see above)	(see above)