

# International Student Employment Information



Oklahoma City  
UNIVERSITY

# Types of Employment

- Optional Practical Training (OPT)
  - Pre-completion
  - Post-completion
  - STEM Extension
- Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
- On-campus
- Work Authorization for Economic Hardship

# Eligibility

All employment types require that you are maintaining your F-1 status as specified below:

- Enrolled full-time (or graduating)
- Making normal progress towards degree completion
- In “good standing” with OCU
- In good immigration standing
- Must have completed one full academic year (for OPT, CPT, and Economic Hardship)

# Authorization

Optional Practical Training (OPT)	Curricular Practical Training (CPT)	On-campus	Economic Hardship
Requires approval and EAD (Employment Authorization Document) card from USCIS.	Requires approval from faculty and authorization on I-20 from IA office.	No major authorization required, but must obtain a SSN.	Requires approval and EAD (Employment Authorization Document) card from USCIS.
Schedule an appointment to apply at International Admissions (IA). Application forms can be found online. <a href="http://www.okcu.edu/admissions/international/employment">www.okcu.edu/admissions/international/employment</a>		Follow the instruction of your hiring department.	Schedule an appointment to apply at International Admissions (IA).

# Optional Practical Training (Pre-completion)

- Employment must be directly related to your major field of study
- Must be enrolled full-time
- Maximum 20 hours per week while school is in session
- Must complete one academic year to be eligible
- 12 months limit

# Optional Practical Training (Post-completion)

- Employment must be directly related to your major field of study
- Minimum 20 hours per week
- Must complete one academic year to be eligible
- 12 months limit
- Maximum 90 days of unemployment
- Reporting requirements (current U.S. address, start & end of employment, change of your employer's name & address, etc.)
- Apply up to 90 days before program completion and up to 60 days after program completion

# Optional Practical Training (STEM Extension)

- 24-month extension on top of 12-month post-completion OPT
- Must have a degree in STEM fields designated by DHS
- Must work for E-Verified employer
- Must apply before original OPT authorization ends
- Reporting requirements (material changes to I-983, validation reports, annual & final evaluations, current U.S. address, etc.)

# Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

- Must complete one academic year to be eligible
- Must be enrolled full-time
- Must be enrolled in internship course that is a required part of your degree program
- If the internship is not required, you must receive academic credit that will count towards your degree requirements
- Must have letter/form from academic advisor and employer
- Maximum 20 hours per week while school is in session
- 12 months limit on full-time CPT, Full-time CPT affect OPT eligibility



# Economic Hardship

- Must complete one academic year to be eligible
- Must be enrolled full-time
- Must prove unexpected or unforeseeable changes in the financial condition
- Must provide extensive documentation of circumstances
- USCIS authorization required
- Maximum 20 hours per week while school is in session

# Social Security Number (SSN)

A social security number (SSN) is required for all paid employment.

OPT	CPT	On-campus	Economic Hardship
Apply with the Form I-765 when you apply for OPT. Social Security Card will be mailed after OPT has been approved.	Apply with your CPT authorized I-20, passport with visa, I-94 at Social Security Office.	Apply with I-20, employment letters provided by OCU at Social Security Office	Same as OPT

# Always Remember

- NEVER work without proper authorization!!!

Illegal employment may result in I-20 termination, deportation, and up to a 10-year ban from returning to the U.S.

- International Admissions is always happy to discuss your employment options and provide appropriate advice and resources.

If you are not sure, please ask!