EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS

Jason Scherzer, International Student Counselor
F-1 Employment Options

1. On Campus
   - Can begin immediately
   - 20 hours or less per week during semesters (full time during school breaks)

2. Off Campus
   - International Organizations
   - Severe Economic Hardship
   - CPT
   - OPT
F-1 Employment Categories

- **ON CAMPUS**
- **OFF CAMPUS**
On Campus Employment

- To qualify maintain full time status, on F-1 visa.
- Not eligible for work-study or long term staff positions
- Only work at the campus listed on the I-20 (UH Main campus)
On Campus Employment

- Full-time F-1 students with a current I-20 may begin working on campus immediately
  - Fall/Spring Semesters ≤ 20 hours per week
  - School breaks ≥ 20 hours per week
On Campus Opportunities

- Most jobs are only advertised in their respective departments (networking)
- Teaching, Research & Academic Support Assistantships (TA/RA/ASA)
  - Typically these jobs offer in-state tuition
  - Highly sought after
Need ideas?
Off Campus Employment

- CPT
- OPT
- International Organizations
- Economic Hardship
Off Campus Employment

- Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
- Optional Practical Training (OPT)
Curricular Practical Training: (CPT)

- Required internship for your degree program or part of your established curriculum
- Cooperative Education (COOP Program)
- Employment offered under cooperative agreement between an employer & university
- Required training needed for research
- Graduate students working on thesis/dissertation
Curricular Practical Training: (CPT)

- Renewable each semester
- Can be granted part-time (unlimited)
- Can be full time (up to 364 days to obtain OPT benefit)
Curricular Practical Training: (CPT)

- Maintained F-1 status
- Full Time student for previous academic year (i.e., Fall & Spring semesters)
Optional Practical Training (OPT)

- Temporary employment usually granted for 12 months
- Related to your major/area of study
- After completing your degree
Sample EAD: Post Completion OPT
Long Term Planning

12 mos. or more of F/T CPT

NO

11 mos. F/T CPT

YES!

Unlimited P/T CPT

NO

1 full year of OPT

YES!

+1 yr, 5 mos. if STEM eligible

H-1B 6 Yrs

Green card
Social Security Number

- Documentation required by the Social Security Administration Office:
  - Job Offer Letter (not older than 30 days)
  - ISSSO Social Security letter
  - Current I-20 (original)
  - I-94 card
  - Passport
  - (for on-campus employment)
Social Security Number

- Bring to the ISSSO:
- Job offer letter from the employer
- Request from ISSSO:
- Social Security Letter
Warning!

- Unauthorized employment is illegal and it is a serious violation of your F-1 visa status.
Visit OISSS

☐ For more information on your employment options and to apply for work authorization please visit us.

☐ www.uh.edu/oisss