Academic Training & J Visa Employment

October 9, 2009
Employment in J Student Status

• Two Kinds:
  – Academic Training (related to course of study)
  – Other employment
    • Related to Academic Funding
    • On-campus Work
    • Off-campus Economic Necessity
Academic Training

• Work, training, or experience related to a student’s field of study.
  – May involve sequential or simultaneous activities.
  – Either paid or unpaid
  – With several employers, U.S. or foreign, provided the application and approval procedures are followed for each employer and activity, and the time limits not exceeded.
Eligibility Requirements for Academic Training

- Must be in U.S. primarily to study rather than engage in academic training.
- Must be done with a specific employer or training site, and be directly related to major listed on DS-2019.
- Must be in good academic standing.
- Must receive written approval in advance from International Student & Scholar Services.
Academic Training Time Limitations

• Degree Programs
  - The total training period may not exceed the period of full course of study.
  - Up to 18 months (whether done before or after completion of studies.)

Exception:
  - To the extent necessary for the exchange visitor to satisfy the mandatory requirements of degree.
  - Up to 36 months for Postdoctoral Training (18 months, plus up to an additional 18 months)
Nondegree Program

• May not exceed the time spent in the program of study.

• For students in a prescribed course of study in a nondegree program, their total stay is limited to 24 months, including all study and authorized academic training.
Part-time Academic Training

• All academic training is counted as full time, even if employment is on a part-time basis.
Procedures for Granting Academic Training

- Job Offer Letter
- Letter of Recommendation from Student’s academic dean or advisor
- Bring the above 2 items to ISSSO to request authorization:
  - Letter of authorization from the International Student and Scholar Services Office.
  - New DS-2019 form
On-Campus J-1 Student Employment

• Employment pursuant to terms of scholarship, fellowship, or assistantship
• Employment on the school’s premises

(All on-campus employment must be authorized by the International Student and Scholar Services Office.)
J-1 Employment Off Campus

- Occurs in necessary because of serious, urgent, and unforeseen economic circumstances that arose since acquiring exchange visitor status.
- Must be authorized in writing by the International Student and Scholar Services Office.
J-1 Professors and Research Scholars

- Permitted to work as described on the Form DS-2019 and may accept additional employment as authorized by the sponsor in accordance with the regulations.
J-1 Professors and Research Scholars

- Unrelated employment not allowed
- Occasional lectures or consultations allowed if approved by sponsor, and be approved in advance in writing by the International Student and Scholar Services Office.
Employment of J-2 Dependents

• Are permitted to apply for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) from USCIS.
• Eligible to apply so long as the employment is not for the purpose of supporting the J-1.
ISSSJO Web Site

Please see our web site for additional information.

www.issso.uh.edu