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**

Only the UH main campus, listed on your I-20

Greater Houston area
On Campus Employment

- To qualify, be sure to maintain full time status, on F-1 visa.
- Not eligible for “work-study” funded positions, 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 $\leq 20$ hours per week
  - School breaks $\geq 20$ 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 competitive
Need ideas?

Also, visit University Career Services; www.uh.edu/ucs - for on campus job search
Off Campus Employment

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

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

4 scenarios for CPT:
- Required practicum / internship course
- Required research for thesis / dissertation
- Internship course for credit but not required by the degree curriculum
- Required by the curriculum but not for academic credit
Curricular Practical Training: (CPT)

- Renewable each semester – authorized on a “per semester” basis
- Can be granted part-time (unlimited; part-time is up to or including 20 hours per week)
- Can be full time (up to 364 total, cumulative days to keep OPT benefit eligibility) – full time allows work beyond 20 hours per week
Curricular Practical Training: (CPT)

- Minimum eligibility for CPT:
  - Maintaining F-1 status
  - Full Time student for previous one academic year (i.e., Fall & Spring semesters, continuously for 2 main semesters).
Optional Practical Training (OPT)

- Temporary employment usually granted for 12 months
- Related to your major/area of study
- To work after completing your degree
- Apply up to 90 days prior to graduation; schedule an OPT type appointment during your final semester.
- Bring the required documents with you for OPT
Sample EAD: Post Completion OPT
Social Security Number

- For an On-Campus job: bring these items to ISSSO:
  - Job offer letter from the UH employer
  - Request from ISSSO:
  - Social Security Letter
Social Security Number – for an On-Campus Job

- Documentation required by the Social Security Administration (SSA) Office:
  - [1] Job Offer Letter (not older than 30 days)
- [1] Current I-20 (original)
- [2] I-94 page – print from CBP website (we gave this to you during Check-In)
- [3] Passport (original)
- [4] Visa page (in passport)
- [5] Fill form “SS-5” – either download it from www.ssa.gov - or complete it at the SSA Office
To Whom It May Concern:

This is evidence of on-campus employment for: [Blank]

(Name of F-1 Student)

Nature of student’s job (e.g., food services, library aide, research assistant, etc.):

[Blank]

Start Date: [Blank]

Number of Hours/Week: [Blank]
General restriction on U.S. employment

- In the most general terms, nonimmigrants cannot work in the United States unless the employment is specifically provided for in the regulations.
- The regulations state this fairly well:
- Authority Cite: 8 CFR 214.1(e)

- (e) Employment. A nonimmigrant in the United States in a class defined in section 101(a)(15)(B) of the Act as a temporary visitor for pleasure, or section 101(a)(15)(C) of the Act as an alien in transit through this country, may not engage in any employment. Any other nonimmigrant in the United States may not engage in any employment unless he has been accorded a nonimmigrant classification which authorizes employment or he has been granted permission to engage in employment in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. A nonimmigrant who is permitted to engage in employment may engage only in such employment as has been authorized. Any unauthorized employment by a nonimmigrant constitutes a failure to maintain status within the meaning of section 241(a)(1)(C)(i) of the Act.
Warning!

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

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

- [www.uh.edu/oisss](http://www.uh.edu/oisss)