

EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

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ois.jhu.edu

F-1, J-1 & Beyond...

Employment Options for International Students

- Off Campus Employment
 - F-1 Optional Practical Training [OPT]
 - F-1 OPT Extension
 - J-1 Academic Training
- Beyond F-1 & J-1 Student Employment Options

F-1 Optional Practical Training

- 12 months of work authorization in the U.S.
- Work must be related to your degree program
- OIS must recommend your participation, USCIS (immigration) grants you the authorization (an EAD card)

Am I Eligible for OPT?

- Requirements:
 - Completed at least one academic year of your program
 - Not engaged in 12 months or more of full-time Curricular Practical Training
 - Not previously received OPT authorization at the same educational level.

How do I apply for OPT?

- Visit our website for detailed instructions
ois.jhu.edu
- Review OPT Presentation and Quiz
- Submit OPT Request
- Meet with OIS advisor
- Get recommendation from OIS and submit an application to USCIS

24 Month OPT Extension

- Certain Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics fields (STEM) are eligible for a 24 month extension of OPT if the employer uses E-verify
- Eligibility:
 - Pursuing a degree in a STEM field
 - May use a prior STEM degree to qualify

J-1 Academic Training

- Authorization required for J-1 off-campus employment
- Must be degree-related
- Full-time or Part-time

- Duration
 - Master's students - 18 months or length of program, whichever is shorter
 - Doctoral students - Up to 36 months

J-1 Academic Training

- Job offer is required by completion date of program
- Work permission & extensions are issued by your program sponsor (JHMI OIS/IIE/Fulbright/Other) not by immigration (USCIS)
- Must receive authorization from program sponsor prior to expiration of DS2019

Beyond F-1 & J-1 Students

- What are some typical visas sponsored by Academic Institutions & Academically Affiliated Research Institutions?
 - J-1 Research Scholar, Short-Term Scholar
 - J-1 Alien Physician
 - H-1B
 - TN
- What are the factors that Universities must consider?
 - Institutional Policies
 - Job Title
 - Cost
 - Timing
 - Employer Obligations

J-1 Research Scholar

- For academic appointments only
- Allows a maximum of 5 years
- Documents & Extensions are issued by the international office
- Allows for transfer to other universities in the U.S. (in certain circumstances)

J-1 Alien Physician

- Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates [ECFMG] is authorized by the U.S. Department of State to sponsor foreign national physicians as Exchange Visitors
- Temporary, non-immigrant status reserved for educational training purposes
- Full-time participation in an approved training program is required to maintain status
- All J-1 physicians sponsored by ECFMG are subject to the two-year home country
- Maximum of 7 years of sponsorship

Specialty Occupations

U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services defines a specialty occupation as:

“an occupation that requires (A) theoretical and practical application of a body of highly specialized knowledge; and (B) attainment of a bachelor’s or higher degree in the specific specialty as a minimum for entry into the occupation in the U.S.”

INA214(i); 8USC 1184(i)

H-1B

- All Universities and University affiliated research institutions are exempt from the H-1B CAP
- Must be coming to the U.S. to work temporarily in a specialty occupation
- Positions must be salaried and meet or exceed Department of Labor wage obligations
- Employer and employment specific
- Status may be granted in up to 3 year increments for a maximum of 6 years
- Some exceptions to the 6 year limit apply

E-3

- Available as a provision of the Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement (AUSFTA) for Australian citizens
- Must be coming to the U.S. to work in a specialty occupation
- Maximum of 10,500 E-3 visas available each fiscal year
- Granted in up to 2 year increments
- No maximum time limit for holding E-3 status

TN

- Available as a provision of the United States – Mexico – Canada agreement (formerly NAFTA) for Canadian and Mexican citizens
- Must have job offer to be eligible for sponsorship
- Position must be one of approved professional occupations (see Appendix 1603.D.1. of the NAFTA Agreement)
- No maximum time limit for holding TN status
- Can be authorized and renewed in increments up to 3 years

O-1

- Intended for foreign nationals who have extraordinary ability in the sciences, education, or business and who are coming temporarily to the United States to engage in employment
- Positions must be salaried
- Employer and employment specific
- Status may be granted in 1 and 3 year increments
- No maximum time limit for holding O-1 status

Additional Questions???

Walk-in Advising Hours (**F & J** questions **only**)

Monday and Wednesday 1pm-4pm

Tuesday and Thursday 9am-12pm

Website

ois.jhu.edu

Contact the OIS

internationalservices@jhmi.edu