Office of International Programs (OIP)

Employment and International Students
Rules and Regulations

- Students are governed by the United States Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Department of State (DoS).
- Students must enroll full-time every fall and spring.
- Limited on online enrollment.
- Must be making progress towards their academic program.
- Employment restrictions.
- Traveling.
Student Employment

What is Student Employment?
• Employment for UT Tyler
• Work that is performed on campus. Work must be a direct service to students at UT Tyler (bookstore, Starbucks)
• Employment is part-time
  • Official university breaks allows for full-time employment

Who qualifies?
• Your F-1 student status permits students to work on campus at the university that issued their I-20 while you are enrolled in a full course of study.

Expiration of On-Campus Employment
• Once student graduates, they are no longer eligible to work on campus
Social Security Number Process

• Department interviews and hires international student.
• Hiring department sends notification to Human Resources to determine eligibility
• Human Resources will notify OIP student has been hired at department X.
• OIP will issue a social security letter to student.
• Student takes the letter to Social Security Administration office and applies for SSN.
  • I-20
  • Visa
  • Passport
  • I-94
  • Letter from OIP
Social Security Number

- Only created for students for employment purposes only.
- Cannot be issued:
  - To apply for credit card
  - To open a bank account
  - To apply for rental home
- The number the students receive is the same one they will use for other types of employment.
Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

What is CPT?
- Defined as alternative work/study, internship or practicum
- Student can participate in CPT after being enrolled one year in their degree program
- Student must be maintaining status
- Takes place while the student is enrolled at UT Tyler (prior to graduation)

Who qualifies?
- Designed to achieve an established academic objective
- Must be directly related to the students program of study
- Must be part of their academic program
- Must have a job offer
- Can be part-time or full-time

Applying for CPT
- Student must attend workshop
- Student must see an ISA at OIP
Optional Practical Training (OPT)

What is OPT?
- Optional Practical Training (OPT) is 12-month work authorization available to F-1 international students who have been full-time students for at least two consecutive semesters and plan to seek employment in the United States in their fields of study.

Who qualifies?
- Must be in full-time F-1 status for at least one academic year.
- Must seek employment in the major field of study listed on their current I-20.
- Be physically present in the United States at time of the application to USCIS.
- NOT have used more than 1 year of full-time CPT during their current degree level (part-time doesn’t count).

Applying for OPT
- No job offer required
- Can apply as early as 90 days
- Application process takes more than 90 days
- Cost to apply is $410.00
- Application process takes more than 90 days

*Students have 90 days to find employment or their OPT will automatically cancel.
*Students must report all employment.
STEM Optional Practical Training (STEM OPT)

What is STEM OPT?
- Eligible students currently on 12-Month OPT may qualify to apply for a 24-Month STEM OPT Extension to receive an additional 2 years of employment authorization directly related to their STEM degree program.

Who qualifies?
- Students with a degree in STEM related field as defined by DHS
- Currently employed with E-Verify employment
- Must be paid employment

Applying for STEM OPT
- Students must apply while on OPT
- Application process is 90 days or more
- Involves employer, student, and OIP ISA
Benefits

• International students foster a diverse campus environment
  • Prepares students for a global economy.
  • Students get to work alongside other students who are not from their cultural background.
  • Student can learn authentic opportunities of the U.S. working culture.
• Provides employers and students a different perspective and an opportunity to experience other ways of learning.
  • Similar backgrounds can be more difficult to understand a different perspective.
• Attracting other International Students
  • Experience of current UT Tyler international students
Contact Us

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