

Florida Atlantic University
International Student
& Scholar Services
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Employment

Below is a brief explanation of the work benefits associated with F-1 student status. In order to obtain authorization when necessary, you will need to speak with the International Student Coordinator. J-1 students should contact the International Student Coordinator to find out about the employment benefits for which they are eligible. You must be in "good standing" for one academic year in order to be eligible to work off-campus.

ON-CAMPUS

You may work on campus provided (1) you are maintaining F-1 status, (2) you do not work more than a total of 20 hours per week (including hours spent on teaching and research assistantships and any authorized off-campus work) while school is in session, and (3) you do not displace a U.S. resident. You do not need authorization from INS. However, check with the International Student Advisor and Student Employment in Student Services Building (SSB) room 228 before beginning any on-campus employment to make sure that you can accept the employment. During vacation periods, students who are eligible and intend to register for the subsequent academic term are permitted to work full time.

OFF-CAMPUS

In order to be eligible to work off-campus, you must (1) be maintaining lawful F-1 status, (2) have been in F-1 status for one full academic year, and (3) be in good academic standing. Two types of off-campus work are available: through "economic hardship" or "practical training".

Employment based on Economic Hardship

F-1 students are eligible for off-campus work authorization based on unforeseen circumstances beyond the student's control and if on-campus employment is not available or is insufficient. Such circumstances may arise because of loss of financial aid or on-campus work without fault on the part of the student or unexpected changes in the financial conditions of the student's source of support. A student must make a good faith effort to locate employment on campus before applying for employment based on economic hardship. In order to apply for Economic Hardship employment you will need to schedule an appointment with the International Student Coordinator.

Curricular Practical Training

Curricular practical training is employment which is an integral or important part of your curriculum, including internships, cooperative education or any other type of required practicum offered by sponsoring employers through cooperative agreements with the school. There is no limitation upon the length of time you may participate in full-time or part-time curricular training, but if you participate for twelve months of full-time training, you will not be eligible for optional practical training. If you qualify, for curricular practical training, you will receive authorization from the International Student & Scholar Services.

Procedure

If you are in the College of Business or Engineering you should contact your Cooperative Advisor. All other students must go to the Career Development Center (SSB) SSB room 222. Once you have obtained a job you

must contact the International Student & Scholar Services for the procedures to obtain authorization to work.

Optional Practical Training

An F-1 student may apply to INS for authorization for optional practical training directly related to the student's major area of study in the following cases:

1. After completion of course requirements (but before completion of a course of study), excluding a thesis or the equivalent, if the student is in a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree program.
2. After completion of the course of study.

Optional practical training is limited to twelve months. A student must complete all training within a 14 month period following the completion of study.

Procedure

Stop by the International Student & Scholar Services to obtain written procedures for applying for Optional Practical Training. You may apply for Practical Training 120 days before graduation. You cannot apply after graduation. **It is important to apply as soon as you are eligible, as it can take up 90 to 120 days to receive your Employment Authorization Document (EAD).**