

# OVERVIEW OF OFF-CAMPUS WORK OPTIONS FOR F-1 STUDENTS

For more information, go to: <http://www.ku.edu/~issfacts>

## 1) Optional Practical Training

- Must be in F-1 status two semesters before authorization can be granted
- Work must be directly related to major
- Limited to 12 months of full-time employment
- Can be part time (up to 20 hours per week) or full time, but each requires a separate application
  - Can only be part time during academic semester (and must remain enrolled full time)
  - Can be part time or full time during official school breaks
  - Can be part time or full time once required course work is finished for Masters or Ph.D. while working on thesis, dissertation or equivalent
  - Can only be full time after completion of degree
  - If used part-time, time is deducted at half the full-time rate (i.e. four months part time = 2 months full time)
- Does not require a job offer to apply
- Application is made to USCIS in Lincoln, NE (after receiving recommendation from ISS)
- Processing time varies; 2-4 months usually
- \$340 application fee

## 2) Curricular Practical Training

- Must be in F-1 status two semesters before authorization can be granted
- Work must be an integral part of program and directly related to major
- Pre-completion of degree only
- Academic credit **MUST** be received for the employment experience and the course **MUST** count toward degree requirements
- Employment usually cannot extend beyond the end of the academic term for which credit is received
- Must remain enrolled full time
- Can be part time (up to 20 hours per week) or full time
- No time limit; however, if used 12 months full-time, optional practical training is forfeited
- Employment is employer specific
- Application is made to ISSS, 2 Strong Hall
- Processing usually takes 2-3 days; however, it is preferred you apply at least 1-2 weeks in advance
- No application fee

## 3) Severe Economic Hardship

- Must be in F-1 status two semesters before authorization can be granted
- Must be able to demonstrate severe economic hardship caused by unforeseen circumstances (show money on I-20 is not available for reason's beyond student's control)
- Is granted one year maximum at a time; can apply to extend
- Can work any where in U.S., but restricted to 20 hours per week while school is in session
- Application is made to USCIS in Lincoln, NE
- \$340 application fee
- Processing time varies; recommended to apply 4 months before requested start date