Navigating the U.S. Job Search

Fall 2020
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<th>PRESENTER</th>
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<td>Introduction &amp; Overview</td>
<td>Kate Zheng</td>
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<td>Putting Together An Effective</td>
<td>Mariella Mecozzi</td>
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<td>John Prescott</td>
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<td>Beth Hoffman-Lopez</td>
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<td>International Center</td>
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Cultural & Immigration Issues in Job Search

- Common cultural barriers to the job search
- When to reveal your work status?
- Interview fashion and grooming tips
- Career-boosting strategies for international students
Resources

- **English Language Institute**
  - Academic English courses, Counseling and Advising, and Conversation Circles

- **Sweetland Center for Writing**
  - Writing workshops and courses

- **H-1B Temporary Worker in Specialty Occupations Basics**
  - Wednesday, November 18 @3pm

- **Employment-Based U.S. Permanent Residency Information**
  - Tuesday, December 1 @3pm
Employment Options for F-1/J-1 Students Before Graduation

- On Campus Employment
- Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
- Optional Practical Training (OPT)
- Academic Training (AT)

For detailed descriptions of on-campus employment, CPT, OPT and AT, please visit our web site at:

http://www.internationalcenter.umich.edu
Employment Options for F-1/J-1 Students After Graduation

- Optional Practical Training (OPT)
- Academic Training (AT)

Review International Center (IC) website first!
## J-1 Employment Before & After Graduation - Academic Training

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Work, training, or experience related to a student’s field of study</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Timing</td>
<td>Before or after completion of studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>• May not exceed the amount of time spent in the full course of study</td>
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<td>• Usual length is 18 months cumulative</td>
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<td>• May have extra 18 months if complete PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application Process</td>
<td>• See International Center website</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Final authorization is issued in International Center</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Apply before graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>F-1 Employment after Graduation: Optional Practical Training (OPT)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Definition</strong></td>
<td>Temporary employment directly related to a student’s field of study</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Timing</strong></td>
<td>Typically for after completion of studies</td>
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| **Length** | • Begins at 12 months  
• May be eligible for Cap Gap or 24-Month extension |
| **Application Process** | 1. Take online OPT course on International Center website  
2. Gather documentation  
3. Request OPT I-20 from I-Center (1-2 weeks processing)  
4. Mail application to U.S. Government (4-ish months processing) |
| **Cost** | Application fee to U.S. government, photos, shipping |
Post-Completion OPT Timing

1) When will you file your OPT application with USCIS?
   Up to 90 days before I-20 completion date, or up to 60 days* after I-20 completion date

2) What requested OPT start date will you use?
   As early as 1 day after the I-20 completion date, or as late as 59 days after the I-20 completion date
24-Month STEM Extension of OPT

- Check if your current or recent program/major is on the list
- Find CIP code on your I-20
- Look up the code at http://www.ice.gov/sevis/stemlist.htm
- Ask your (potential!) employer if they participate in the e-Verify system. If yes, then also find out if they have experience with the Form I-983.
- Sometimes the recruiter, hiring manager, or boss will not know; they may need to check with Human Resources.
**H-1B – Temporary Worker in Specialty Occupations Basic Procedure Flowsheet**

**Information/Evidence Gathering**
- Department and employee fill out forms
- Gather supporting documents/letters

*Time: 1-2 weeks*

**Wage Determination**
- Employer obtains prevailing and actual wage
- Employer files LCA is the Department of Labor

*Time: 2-13 weeks*

**H-1B Petition**
- Employer files I-129 with USCIS - California Service Center

*Time: 2 weeks to 4 months*

**Note:**
Credential evaluation, if necessary

**Note:**
Wage offered to the alien must be 100% of the prevailing wage or actual wage (whichever is higher)

**Note:**
J-1 exchange visitors may need US State Department Recommendation of waiver of Foreign Residence Requirement.
Permanent Residency ("Green Card") Basic Procedure Flow Sheet

Application for Labor Certification
• Advertisement & recruitment results
• Drafting forms, gathering documents
• U.S. Dept. of Labor (Form ETA 9089)

Time: 6 - 18 months

Immigration Petition for Alien Worker
• Preparation of additional forms/documents
• File I-140 with USCIS

Time: 2 weeks to 7 months

Adjustment of Status
• Prepare and file I-485 with USCIS or immigrant visa at U.S. Consulate abroad.

Time: 6 months - unknown

No Labor Certificate Needed For:
• Extraordinary Ability
• Outstanding Professors/Researchers
• National Interest Waiver

Note:
Employment Authorization possible
Thank you!

Q & A