Navigating the U.S. Job Search (for International Students)

Wednesday, March 16
1:00 - 2:30 PM
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>PRESENTER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction &amp; Overview</td>
<td>Jake Koelzer</td>
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<td><em>International Center</em></td>
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<td>Putting Together An Effective Strategy</td>
<td>Mariella Mecozzi</td>
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<td><em>University Career Center</em></td>
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<td>Legal/Immigration Issues</td>
<td>John Prescott</td>
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<td>Beth Hoffman-Lopez</td>
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Cultural & Immigration Issues in Job Search

- Common cultural barriers to the job search
- How, why, and when to share your immigration status on job interviews
- Interview fashion and grooming tips
- Career-boosting strategies for international students
Resources

- **English Language Institute**
  - Academic English courses, Counseling and Advising, and events/programs
- **Sweetland Center for Writing**
  - Writing workshops and courses
- **H-1B Temporary Worker in Specialty Occupations Basics**
  - Tuesday, April 5 @ 3 PM
- **Employment-Based U.S. Permanent Residency Information**
  - Tuesday, April 12 @ 3 PM
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 website 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!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Work, training, or experience related to a student's field of study</th>
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<td>Timing</td>
<td>Before or after completion of studies</td>
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| Length     | • May not exceed the amount of time spent in the full course of study  
|            | • Usual length is up to 18 months cumulative                  |
|            | • May have extra 18 months if complete PhD or have STEM degree |
| Application Process | • See International Center website  
|            | • Final authorization is issued in International Center  
|            | • Apply before graduation                                    |
| Cost       | None                                                          |
# F-1 Employment after Graduation: Optional Practical Training (OPT)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Temporary employment directly related to a student's field of study</th>
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<td>Timing</td>
<td>Typically for after completion of studies</td>
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</table>
| Length     | - Begins at 12 months  
|            | - May be eligible for Cap Gap or 24-Month extension                 |
| Application Process | 1. Take online OPT training on International Center website  
|              | 2. Gather documentation                                           |
|            | 3. Request OPT I-20 from I-Center (2-ish weeks processing)          |
|            | 4. File application with U.S. Government (3-ish months processing time) |
| Cost       | Application fee to U.S. government                                  |
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

1) Check if your current or recent program/major is on the list
   - Find CIP code on page 1 of your I-20
   - Look up the official STEM list:

2) Ask your employer if they are enrolled in E-Verify. If yes, then review the Form I-983.
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 9 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 12 months

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

Time: 6 months - unknown

Note:
Employment Authorization possible

No Labor Certificate Needed For:
- Extraordinary Ability
- Outstanding Professors/Researchers
- National Interest Waiver
Q & A