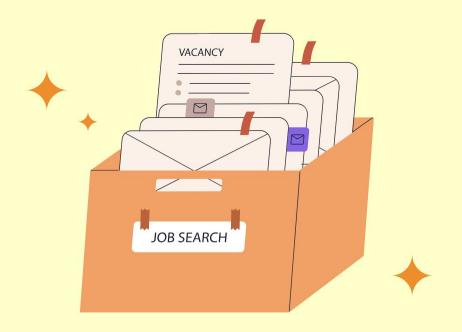
# **NAVIGATING THE U.S. JOB SEARCH**

for international students



Scan the code to check in!







# Agenda

TOPIC	PRESENTER
Introduction	Jake Koelzer International Center
Putting Together An Effective Strategy	Rachel Zhang University Career Center
Legal/Immigration Issues	John Prescott International Center  Beth Hoffman-Lopez International Center

### Employment Options for F-1/J-1 M **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!



## J-1 Employment Before & After M Graduation - Academic Training

Definition	Work, training, or experience related to a student's field of study
Timing	Before or after completion of studies
Length	<ul> <li>May not exceed the amount of time spent in the full course of study</li> <li>Usual length is up to 18 months cumulative</li> <li>May have extra 18 months if complete PhD or have <u>STEM degree</u></li> </ul>
Application Process	<ul> <li>See International Center website</li> <li>Final authorization is issued in International Center</li> <li>Apply before graduation</li> </ul>
Cost	None

# F-1 Employment after Graduation: Mac Optional Practical Training (OPT)

Definition	Temporary employment directly related to a student's field of study
Timing	Typically for after completion of studies; Maximum 90 days unemployment time
Length	<ul><li>Begins at 12 months</li><li>May be eligible for Cap Gap or 24-Month STEM OPT extension</li></ul>
Application Process	<ol> <li>Take online OPT training on International Center website</li> <li>Gather documentation</li> <li>Request OPT I-20 from I-Center (1-2 weeks processing)</li> <li>File application with U.S. Government (currently 3 to 4-ish months processing time)</li> </ol>
Cost	Application fee(s) to USCIS, including Premium Processing option



## **Post-Completion OPT Timing**

1) When will you file your OPT application with <u>USCIS</u>?

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 60 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:
     <a href="https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/stemList20">https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/stemList20</a>
     24.pdf

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 with the Department of Labor

Time: ~2 weeks



#### H-1B Petition

- •Employer prepares and files I-129 with USCIS
- •USCIS adjudication (15 days 4 months)

Time: 3 weeks to 5 months

#### Note:

- Credential evaluation, if relevant degree was earned at an institution outside of the U.S.
- J-1 exchange visitors may need waiver of 212(e) - two year home residency requirement.

#### Note:

• Wage offered to the alien must be 100% of the prevailing wage or actual wage (whichever is higher).

#### Note:

- Approval can be for change/extension of status or consular processing
- USCIS approval does not include visa sticker.

\*\*\*Flowsheet for UM Cap Exempt H-1B's, will differ for private sector cap-based H-1B's

# Permanent Residency ("Green Card") Basic Procedure Flow Sheet

#### **Application for Labor Certification (PERM)**

- Advertisement & recruitment results (2+ mo)
- •Prevailing Wage Determination filed (6 mo)
- •Drafting forms, gathering documents U.S. Dept. of Labor (Form ETA 9089) (15+ mo)

Time: 23 to 27 months



#### **Immigration Petition for Alien Worker**

- •Preparation of additional forms/documents
- •File Form I-140 with USCIS

Time: 3 weeks to 8 months



#### **Adjustment of Status (AOS)**

 Prepare and file Form I-485 with USCIS or immigrant visa at U.S Consulate abroad, dependent on Priority Date\*

Time: 6 months to unknown



- Extraordinary Ability (EB-1A)
- Outstanding Professors/Researchers (EB-1B, requires employer sponsor.)
- National Interest Waiver (EB-2)

#### Note:

- Employment Authorization possible for H-4 dependent prior to filing AOS
- \*Priority Date must be current on Visa Bulletin to apply for AOS or immigrant visa



# Cultural & Immigration Issues in Job Search

- Common cultural barriers to the job search
- Interview fashion and grooming tips
- International Student Employment: Answering Questions about the Need for "Employment Visa Sponsorship"
- How, why, and when to share your immigration status on job interviews



### 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 1 from 3 4 PM
- Employment-Based U.S. Permanent Residency Information
  - Tuesday, April 8 from 3 4 PM

# Q&A