Navigating the U.S. Job Search After Graduation

Winter 2019
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<td>Kate Zheng</td>
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<td>iPlan and You Search: Jobs in the U.S.</td>
<td>Joelle Fundaro</td>
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<td>Legal/Immigration Issues</td>
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<td>Beth Hoffman-Lopez</td>
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<td>Evaluation &amp; Closing</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
Global Job Search Resources

- **Going Global**
  - The Going Global database contains state, metro and US-wide H1B records gathered directly from the US Department of Labor (DOL).
  - Country Guides contains job search resources, resume/cv guidelines, interviewing and cultural advice.

- **Work Abroad Monster**
U-M Resources

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

- **Sweetland Center for Writing**
  - Writing Workshops and Course, Chat Café

- **Career Services Offices**

- **International Center H-1B FAQ**
Upcoming Workshops

➢ **H-1B Temporary Worker in Specialty Occupations Basics**: Tuesday, March 5 at 2:30pm

➢ **Employment-Based U.S. Permanent Residency Information**: Thursday, March 7 at 2:30pm

Location: General Motors Conference Room (4th floor), *Lurie Engineering Center*, North Campus
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>
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<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>
</tr>
<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></td>
<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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# F-1 Employment after Graduation: Optional Practical Training (OPT)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Temporary employment directly related to a student’s field of study</th>
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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 (approx. 3-4 months processing) |
| **Cost**                           | Currently $410+ incl. 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](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.
**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 10 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: 8 - 18 months

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

Time: 2 weeks to 10 months

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

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