International Student Work Permission

IUP Graduate Admissions
Office of International Education
Immigrant vs. Nonimmigrant
U.S. Department of State

Immigrant - Intend to remain in U.S.
Usually have a work card

• Legal Permanent Resident (Green Card Holder)

• Many other statuses.

• Asylee, Refugee – intend to remain in U.S.

• There are also undocumented students at IUP (DACA, Undocumented)

Non-Immigrant - Intend to return to home country
Limited work permission

• F-1, J-1 – student visas

• H1B, H4 – work visas

• G, A visas – government and diplomatic visas
The purpose of your intended travel and other facts will determine what type of visa is required under U.S. immigration law. As a visa applicant, you will need to establish that you meet all requirements to receive the category of visa for which you are applying. When you apply at a U.S embassy or consulate, a consular officer will determine based on laws, whether you are eligible to receive a visa, and if so, which visa category is appropriate.

Nonimmigrant Visa Categories

Immigrant Visa Categories

https://travel.state.gov/
International Student Life Cycle (F-1/M-1)

1. Apply to a Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)-Certified School
   Student applies and is accepted to an SEVP-certified school.

2. Receive a Form I-20, “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status”
   A student’s Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) record is created and the student is then issued a Form I-20 by the designated school official (DSO) at the SEVP-certified school they have chosen to attend.

3. Pay the I-901 SEVIS Fee
   Student must pay the I-901 SEVIS Fee at FMJFee.com.

4. Apply for Student Visa
   Student brings their Form I-20 and other required documents to apply for a student visa from the U.S. Department of State.

5. Arrive in the United States
   Student arrives no more than 30 days before their program start date and presents their Form I-20 and valid student visa to U.S. Customs and Border Protection at the port of entry.

6. Maintain Status During Program Study
   Student must take a full course of study, not work without prior authorization and speak with their DSO if they cannot finish classes before their program end date, or have any other concerns about maintaining lawful status.

7. Explore Post-Graduation Opportunities
   A student has the option to transfer schools, change education levels (e.g., undergraduate to graduate), or if eligible, apply to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for post-completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) opportunities.

8. Depart the United States
   An F-1 student has 60 days to depart the United States after completion of their program of study or OPT. An M-1 student has 30 days after completion of their program of study to depart.

For more information visit StudyInTheStates.dhs.gov/Students

Work Requirements (F-1 Students Only)
An F-1 student may work only when authorized, including:
- On campus
- Off campus, if financially needed and with authorization from USCIS
- Curricular practical training, integral to their program of study
- OPT related to the student's major and with authorization by USCIS.
Certificate of Eligibility I-20 (F-1) or DS-2019 (J-1)  
Created by Office of International Education Staff
Documents Students have.... Passport, Visa, I94 (entry record)

Most Recent I-94

Admission (I-94) Record Number: 514155655885
Most Recent Date of Entry: 2017 July 25

Visa Type/Class: F1
Admission Status: F1
Admission Date: D/S
Details provided on the I-94 Information form:

- Last/Surname:
- First (Given) Name:
- Birth Date:
- Passport Number:
- Country of Issuance: China
F-1 and J-1 Work Permission

**F-1 Work Permission**

- On-campus student work – state or university employment only. (20 hrs/week while taking classes; 40 hrs/week during breaks)
- CPT Internship work permission
- OPT – 12 months work permission to use during studies or after graduation
- Economic Hardship Work Permission

**J-1 Work Permission**

- STUDENTS:
  - On-campus student work state or university employment only. (20 hours/week while enrolled in classes; 40 hrs/week during breaks)
  - Academic Training – time frame varies - job offer in hand
  - Economic Hardship Work Permission
- VISITING RESEARCH SCHOLARS: usually are not enrolled in classes and they can work
- VISITING PROFESSOR: hired by IUP through HR
F-1 CPT internship work permission

- Must have job offer first
- And must have internship/practicum credits approved through academic department before credits are given
- Typically 3-4 months
- OIE Updates the I-20 for student on page 2.
- Show employer copy of I-20 page 2 for work permission.
- Does not need to be adjudicated by USCIS
**F-1 OPT work permission**

- Students can apply for EAD work card – no job offer needed.
- Has specific dates – up to 12 months total.
- Work must be related to their field of study
- Pre Completion OPT – during studies can only work part-time
- Post Completion OPT – can work full or part-time.
- STEM OPT – students in certain fields can get an extra 24 months of OPT – total 36 months.
- Currently taking 3-6 months processing at USCIS
F-1 Severe Economic Hardship

- EAD Card – has dates
- Work does NOT have to be related to field of study
- Part-time during studies
- Full-time during breaks
- Most applications are denied
- USCIS processes application – 3-6+ months
J-1 Student Academic Training

Work permission is documented by an Academic Training letter written by sponsoring agency (IUP, Fulbright) would list employer name, dates of employment. (Not EAD)

*Must have job offer first and work must be related to academic program.*

- Exchange Students (4 months = 1 semester)
- Degree students (18 months)
- Doctoral Students (Total of 36 months)
J-1 Student Economic Hardship

- Student must have job offer first and work does NOT have to be related to academic program.
- Work permission is documented by an Economic Hardship letter from sponsoring agency (IUP, Fulbright) who issued immigration document and will state work permission and dates eligible.
J-1 Research Scholar and Professors

Work Permission can be given for occasional lectures or short-term consultations must:

- Be directly related to the objectives of the exchange visitor's program;
- Be incidental to the exchange visitor's primary program activities;
- Not delay the completion date of the visitor's program; and
- Be documented in SEVIS.
Other statuses

J-2 : Dependent spouse or child of a J-1
  • Can study part-time or full-time
  • Allowed to work with EAD

F-2 : Dependent spouse or child of a F-1
  • Can study part-time
  • NOT allowed to work at all

H4 : Dependent spouse of an H1B
  • Can study part-time or full-time
  • Allowed to work with an EAD if the H1B visa holder either
    • H1B spouse must be the beneficiary of an approved I-140, or
    • H1B spouse must have extended H1B status past the initial 6 years
What Options are there After F/J Status?

1. Employment-Based Immigration *OPT, WORK VISA, then Green Card*

   - F-1 Student: In School
   - F-1 Student: Graduation
   - F-1 Student: OPT
   - No Longer a Student: 12 WORK VISAS

2. Marriage-Based Immigration *American or Green Card Spouse*

   - Get Married
   - 3 Years STEM OPT
   - GREEN CARD
CPDC Questions to Ask Students

• What type of job are you looking for? (IUP has students on all types of visas – not just student visas)

• Is this for an internship? If this is for an internship - Have you talked to your academic department? Have you talked with Office of Intl Education?

• Is this after graduation? What is your major? Students need to find a job related to their degree.

• Are you an international student? If yes – are you working with the Office of International Education to understand your work permission options?

• Would you like help with your resume / interview skills? (some students outside of Business don’t always know about CPDC or resources)
Work Resources for International Students

• Refer them to our office for questions about immigration
  www.iup.edu/intl (zoom appointments, call, email)

• OIE Employment page - look under Resources
  www.iup.edu/intl/students/employment

• Job Search Handbook – overview of visas, resources

• Do you have websites or information you share that’s specific for int’l students?

• Art Seratelli – Immigration attorney who LOVES college students. Presents 1/year at IUP.
  • PPT (has LOTS of helpful links)
  • youtube page, website, email
Art & Mara: Contact Information

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