

OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES

PAID OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WITH F-1 STATUS

The following list outlines opportunities to obtain authorization to undertake paid work in the United States if you are in F-1 immigration status. Each category may allow for authorization under different circumstances and at different times during your stay in the US. Please note that this is a summary of work benefits and does not include all regulations governing employment.

On-Campus Work - Full-time students are allowed to work up to 20 hours per week during the academic year. On-campus employment means that you are paid by Columbia University or working at a University location with an employer that is providing services to students, such as the Bookstore. On-campus employment requires the completion of an I-9 Employment Verification Authorization form at the International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) in advance of your work start date.

On-campus opportunities are offered by:

- **Columbia University Libraries** www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv
- **University Event Management** www.uem.columbia.edu

In addition, in early September of each year, CU Libraries and Event Management host major job fairs open to international students. Please check *SIPALink* for other casual on-campus employment opportunities.

Off-Campus Work - Students who have been in F-1 status for one academic year may work off-campus only after securing authorization from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) at the recommendation of the ISSO or the International Affairs Office (IAO). Authorization is awarded to students based on:

1. **Financial Need:** Students experiencing extreme financial difficulties due to unforeseen circumstances that severely affect their financial resources may apply for work permission.
2. **Curricular Practical Training (CPT):** CPT is defined as employment pursuant to a required or elective internship which is an integral part of the established curriculum of your school. The internship is undertaken before completion of your studies. For more information on processing CPT, please refer to the CPT fact sheet online or in hard copy in the Office of Career Services.

Internships with International Organizations - Students in F-1 status are eligible to apply for permission to undertake paid work for international organizations such as the United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, etc. Authorization is granted by the DHS on the recommendation of the ISSO.

Optional Practical Training (OPT) - OPT is defined as employment related to your field of study and is available after completion of your studies. For more information on processing OPT, please refer to the OPT fact sheet online or in hard copy in the Office of Career Services.

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