

WORK IN THE U.S. BEFORE GRADUATION

On Campus Limitation

Students in F-1 and J-1 status are required to be full-time students and may work on-campus up to 20 hours or in the “practical training” options below.

Practical Training Options

International students are eligible for temporary work authorization that permits them to engage in part- or full- time employment in their field of study.

1. Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

CPT is temporary employment authorization directly related to a F-1 student’s academic program and granted by the Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS).

CPT is typically authorized on a part-time (up to 20 hours a week) basis during the school year and can be authorized on a full-time (over 20 hours a week) or part-time basis during vacation periods. CPT gives students the possibility to work off-campus or to work for more than 20 hours a week on campus if certain qualifications are met.

Some types of CPT are as follows:

Required for the degree program: In order for training to be considered “required”, all students in the degree program must be required to complete an internship or practicum in order to receive their degree. A few programs at MSU have such requirements.

Integral part of an established curriculum: If the internship/work experience is not required, then it must be taken for academic credit. Students will work with their academic advisor to fill out the “CPT Authorization Form” issued by OISS.

The student must receive a job offer before securing the employment authorization, and thus will be unable to provide documentation at the interview stage. OISS needs a signed, written offer of employment on the company’s letterhead as part of the CPT application requirements.

Proof of Work Authorization: The employer and dates for which the student is authorized to work will appear on the student’s Form I-20 (certificate of eligibility). Students cannot begin work before the start date on the Form I-20, or continue working after the end date. CPT authorization may be renewable if the student continues to be eligible.

To apply for CPT: <http://dev.oiss.isp.msu.edu/files/2015/0367/4634/cpt.pdf>

2. J-1 Academic Training

J-1 students may apply for temporary work authorization called “Academic Training” (AT) either prior to or after completion of studies to accept positions within their field of study.

Students seeking or completing bachelor’s or master’s degrees are eligible for 18 months of AT. Students seeking or completing doctoral degrees are eligible for 36 months of AT.

Non-degree (exchange) students are eligible for AT authorizations matching the length of time they have spent studying in the U.S. Example: A one-semester (4-month) exchange student is eligible for up to 4 months of AT.