

## OFF-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT FOR F-1 VISA STUDENTS

**Disclaimer:** PUC OISS has prepared this guide to provide you with general guidance. However, any advice provided to you by our office, as well as the information in this document, should not be construed as legal advice. PUC international staff will provide regulatory and practice information as it stands at the time of the consult. Due to the fluid nature of governmental interpretation, individuals must understand that the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) office may change its interpretation of established immigration laws/regulations and eligibility requirements for benefits at any time. For legal advice, you may consult with an immigration attorney.

- The regulation that defines off-campus employment for F-1 students is in [8 CFR 214.2\(f\)\(9\)\(ii\)](#). Generally, it is employment for economic need and does not necessarily have to be related to the student's academic course of study. Please visit <https://www.ice.gov/sevis/employment> for the employment guidelines for F-1 students.
- Contact the international student advisor for any questions regarding employment, employment eligibility, and to verify that any potential employment is legal for an F-1 visa student in your specific situation.
- Contact the international student advisor for any questions regarding paid or unpaid internships, internship eligibility, and to verify that any potential internship is legal for an F-1 visa student in your specific situation.
- Employment is restricted because education is the student's primary purpose for being in the United States. The U.S. Embassy or Consulate that issued your visa was convinced by your documentation that you have the financial resources to be able to complete your educational program in the U.S. If the documents you submitted were not accurate, then U.S. law can provide serious penalties for committing fraud.
- Do not work off-campus without authorization from the international student advisor and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).
- Unauthorized employment is a serious risk to your ability to remain in or return to the U.S. If you have unauthorized employment, you are not eligible for reinstatement so you will be forced to leave the U.S. immediately.
- Unauthorized employment is any type of work performed for services provided in exchange for money, tuition, books, supplies, room, food, or any other benefit. Example: free room and board in exchange for babysitting. Another example of unauthorized employment is working remotely from your residence hall for an online employer.
- Special work authorization from the international student advisor and USCIS is required for the following:
  - Severe economic hardship
  - Optional practical training (pre- and post-completion)
- Special work authorization from the international student advisor is required for the following:
  - Curricular practical training