

Severe Economic Hardship

If you are suffering a severe economic hardship due to unforeseen changes in your financial circumstances, you may apply to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for authorization to work off-campus.

Examples of unforeseen circumstances include loss of financial support or on-campus employment, substantial fluctuations in the value of currency or exchange rate, inordinate increases in tuition and/or living costs, unexpected changes in the financial condition of your source of support, medical bills, or other substantial and unexpected expenses.

Application processing times vary between two to four months. If approved, USCIS will issue an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) for a maximum of one year. Do not begin working until you receive the EAD. If approved, you may work for any employer up to 20 hours per week while enrolled in a full course of study and full-time during quarter breaks and your annual vacation quarter. This employment does not affect your eligibility for Optional Practical Training (OPT). Employment authorization is automatically terminated if you fail to maintain status or transfer to another school.

Eligibility:

- You must have been in F-1 status for one academic year
- Be in good academic standing
- Document that on-campus employment opportunities are unavailable or insufficient to meet your financial needs.

Please enclose the following items:

- ___ Completed I-765 Form with signature and “(c) (3) (iii)” at item 16
- ___ Copy of I-94
- ___ Copies of all previous I-20s from all schools attended
- ___ Copy of Passport
- ___ Copy of VISA
- ___ Check or Money Order made out to "U.S. Department of Homeland Security" for \$410
- ___ Two passport style photos with student’s name written in the back
- ___ Letter from Sponsor describing your financial difficulties and why on-campus employment opportunities are unavailable or insufficient; include supporting evidence
- ___ Letter from Student explaining describing your financial difficulties and why on-campus employment opportunities are unavailable or insufficient; include supporting evidence

If you have had Off Campus Employment Before

- ___ I- 20 showing previous employment information
- ___ Receipts showing previous employment information
- ___ EAD Card showing previous employment information

- Receive from International Center -

- I-20 reflecting “Off Campus Employment”
- Letter of support

Please mail by certified mail to:

Regular Post

USCIS
PO Box 21281
Phoenix, AZ 85036

Overnight Post

USCIS
Attn: AOS
1820 E. Skyharbor Circle S
Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85034
