



# Off-Campus Work Authorization Options for International Students on an F-1 Visa

	<b>Curricular Practical Training (CPT)</b>	<b>Pre-Completion OPT</b>	<b>Post-Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT)</b>	<b>STEM Extension OPT</b>
<b>What type of work is authorized?</b>	Any legal work related to the student's major field of study	Any legal work related to the student's major field of study	Any legal work related to the student's major field of study	Any legal work related to the student's major field of study
<b>How long is the work authorized for?</b>	One semester (or more if required by degree)	Up to one year at full-time rate or two years at part-time rate	One year (if student has not used a year of full-time CPT or pre-completion OPT)	Two years
<b>When can the student work?</b>	The work experience occurs during the student's degree program, before graduation. Student must complete a minimum of one academic year in full-time status to apply for CPT. Student can work once they receive an updated form I-20 from their DSO with the CPT authorization listed on page 2	The work experience occurs during the student's degree program, before graduation. Student must complete a minimum of one academic year in full-time status to apply for pre-completion OPT. Student can work once they receive their Employment Authorization Document (EAD) card	The work experience occurs after student graduates. Student must have completed a minimum of one academic year in full-time status to apply for post-completion OPT. Student can work once they receive their Employment Authorization Document (EAD) card	The work experience occurs after the student finishes post-completion OPT. Student can apply 90 days before their post-completion OPT expires and can continue working without the new EAD card for up to 180 days beyond the expiration of the previous EAD card
<b>Who authorizes the work for the student?</b>	The Designated School Official (DSO) at the university	The government (USCIS)	The government (USCIS)	The government (USCIS)
<b>How long does the work authorization take to process?</b>	Approximately 1-2 days after CPT paperwork is submitted by the student to the DSO	Approximately 90 days once application is submitted to USCIS	Approximately 90 days once application is submitted to USCIS	Approximately 90 days once application is submitted to USCIS
<b>Does the work have to be paid or unpaid?</b>	Work can be paid or unpaid	Work can be paid or unpaid	Work can be paid or unpaid	Work must be paid
<b>Is the work part-time or full-time?</b>	Part-time (20 hours per week or less) while school is in session or up to 40 hours per week during summer break	Part-time (20 hours per week or less) while school is in session or up to 40 hours per week during summer break	Full-time (20 hours per week or more)	Full-time (20 hours per week or more)
<b>Is the work required or optional?</b>	Work (e.g. internship) is required as part of the student's program that he/she earns academic credit for towards their degree	The work experience is optional for students to pursue	The work experience is optional for students to pursue	The work experience is optional for students to pursue