Work Authorization for International Students

Presented by:
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Types of Work Authorizations: CPT, OPT, AT

- Students with F-1 visas obtain CPT and OPT
- Students with J-1 visas obtain AT
Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
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- Purpose:
  - To grant temporary work authorization to F-1 students if their degree program requires off-campus work experience related to their field of study (i.e. internships)
CPT Eligibility

- Valid I-20
- Completed one academic year as a full time student
- Job offer that is integral to degree program
- Must register for a course that requires or recommends the off campus work opportunity during the semester of the employment
CPT Opportunity

Opportunity

- **Job Specific**
  - The student must update I-20 for each job opportunity

- **Part-time**
  - During fall and spring term students can apply for part time CPT (cumulative 20 hours per week)
  - Almost unlimited

- **Full-time**
  - During breaks in the school year (summer, winter, spring and Thanksgiving breaks)
  - Available during fall and spring term if required for graduation and/or part of a co-op.
  - Not available during last semester of student’s program unless is required
  - Limited to 364 days
CPT Process

- **Student**
  - Registers for a course which requires off campus employment
  - Student acquires a job integral/important to degree program
- **Academic Advisor/Department Official**
  - Advises for which course the student can register
  - Reviews appropriateness of position
  - Writes letter recommending CPT
- **ISSS**
  - Reviews documentation and past CPT registrations
  - Authorizes the request by updating the I-20
  - Timing: three business days; *if all documentation is in order*
Optional Practical Training (OPT)
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Purpose

- Twelve months work authorization most commonly used after graduation.

- Opportunity to work in the US to build work experience in the degree they earned

- Not job specific; but cannot accrue more than 90 days of unemployment during the twelve months

- OPT available once per educational level
Optional Practical Training (OPT)

What counts as work during OPT

- Full time in the field and level in which they graduated
- Part time (at least 20 hours/week) in the field and level in which they graduated
- Unpaid work (at least 20 hours/week) in the field and level in which they graduated
OPT Application Process

- Student will gather application material and send to USCIS, EAD Card will be sent to the student through mail
- Can take up to 90 days to receive card
Academic Training (AT)
J-1 Students and Research Park

During their program of study

- Research Park is considered “on-campus”
  - Student will obtain “Letter of Authorization” from ISSS
  - Will need to have letter and take to hiring department
  - 20 hours per week (including all other employment) when school is in session
  - Full time during scheduled breaks
J-1 Students and Research Park

- After their program of study
  - Students must apply for Academic Training (AT)
    - Job offer letter from employer
    - Job opportunity must be related to program objective
    - Student will take job offer letter to academic advisor
    - Advisor writes AT letter to ISSS
    - Student obtains new DS-2019 and AT letter from ISSS
    - Authorization takes approximately three days provided all information is correct
    - Student must apply for AT before program end date, and start work no more than 30 days after PED
ISSS Contact

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