General Information: On-Campus Work Authorization for J-1 Students

Students maintaining J-1 status are eligible to work on campus. Work performed on the school premises is "on-campus" employment as long as the employment provides direct services to students. If you are unclear if a job would be considered “on-campus” employment, please check with an international student advisor.

Students are permitted to work a maximum of 20 hours per week while classes are in session and full-time during holidays or school vacation periods. Students must intend to enroll full-time during the academic term following the vacation period. This 20-hour total includes hours spent working on an assistantship.

On-campus employment is not permitted after graduation, other than work permission through authorized Academic Training (AT). If the student has been accepted, received a DS-2019, and is planning to enroll in a new educational program at the same educational institution continued on-campus work may be possible. Please read further information regarding employment after graduation under “Academic Training.”

Special Considerations for Graduate Students

USCIS regulations allow graduate students to work at an off-campus locations provided that:

- The location is educationally affiliated with the school
- The educational affiliation is associated with the school’s established curriculum or is related to a graduate level research project which the university has contracted to perform
- The work is an integral part of the program of study and the student has been authorized for Academic Training off-campus work authorization

For example, if an academic department has a research contract with a private company, a graduate student may be employed under that contract and the work will be considered by USCIS regulations as if it were on-campus.
Obtaining On-Campus Work Authorization for J-1 Students

J-1 students who have been offered employment on-campus must request work authorization in compass.uga.edu. An advisor will then issue an email stating that the student is permitted to work on-campus and update the student’s SEVIS record to reflect this employment. Immigration Services will also issue the student a letter to be used when obtaining a Social Security card, if necessary.

*Note: Students must request on-campus work authorization each semester in compass.uga.edu. This includes academic assistantships