General Information for On-Campus Work

Students who are maintaining F/J 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, provided the student intends to enroll full-time during the academic term following the vacation period. This 20 hour total includes hours spent working on an assistantship. For example, a one-third time assistantship is equivalent to 13 hours of work; therefore, the student can work a maximum of 7 additional hours on campus to total 20 hours.

On-campus employment is not permitted after graduation (other than with work permission through Optional Practical Training) unless the student has been accepted, received an I-20, and is planning to enroll in a new educational program at the same educational institution.

Special Considerations for Graduate Students

USCIS regulations allow graduate students to work at an off-campus location 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 CPT off-campus work permission.

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.