

Optional Practical Training

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6/4/2009

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Definition: Optional Practical Training

- Temporary employment for practical training directly related to the student's major area of study.

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Who is Eligible for OPT?

- F-1 students in full-time status
- Lawfully enrolled for at least one academic year
- Good academic standing (means a minimum 2.0 GPA)
- F-1 students are only eligible for Full Time OPT following the completion of the course of study.

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Location

- Students may work using OPT for any employer for the length of OPT authorization, as long as the employment qualifies under OPT standards.
- Additionally, students are not limited to a geographic location in the United States.

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What type of employment can I accept?

- Job must be related to your academic field of study
- Job must be appropriate for a person with your level of degree in the field
- Approved with or without a job

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When to Apply

- Students should apply prior to completing their academic program.
- The application should be received before the ending date on the I-20.
- It is **STRONGLY** recommended that you apply 3 months prior to finishing your program.

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OPT Workshops

- To learn more, attend an OPT workshop during the spring or fall semester.
- Learn the details of the application process.
- Learn how to fill out the forms.
- Workshop information & schedules will be available at the International Center.

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