



Employment in F-1 Status: A student in F-1 visa category is bound by the general restriction on employment stated at 8 C.F.R.214.1(e). A nonimmigrant that is permitted to engage in employment may engage in such employment as has been authorized. Any unauthorized employment by a nonimmigrant constitutes a failure to maintain status. In order to maintain visa status, an F-1 student must not work unless the employment is specifically authorized.

This chart provides a quick overview of the various employment categories available to F-1 students with an I-20 issued by UCI. Detailed information is available on the International Center web site for Curricular Practical Training and Optional Practical Training. Information about the other categories can be obtained by calling the International Center.

### Off-Campus Employment

Categories of Employment	Economic Hardship	International Organization	Curricular Practical Training	Optional Practical Training
<b>Eligibility</b>	F-1 status for 1 academic year	Upon enrollment	Full academic year	
<b>Duration</b>	1 year at a time; void if transfers out	1 year at a time	Quarter	Quarter or post-completion
<b>Location</b>	On or off campus	Qualified international organization	Employer specific	Any employer
<b>Hours per Week</b>	Part-time (full-time during summer)			Part-time or full-time. Must be full-time if post-completion
<b>Field/Level of Work</b>	Any		Part of curriculum	Related to degree/major and level
<b>Offer of Employment</b>	Not required	Required		Not required
<b>Affect on Other Work</b>	Not counted toward 20 on-campus hours; does not affect OPT	Not counted toward 20 on-campus hours; does not affect OPT	Full-time CPT for 1 year eliminates OPT	
<b>Approval Process</b>	DSO recommendation > Apply for EAD > USCIS approval	DSO recommendation > Apply for EAD > USCIS approval	DSO authorization	DSO recommendation > Apply for EAD > USCIS approval

### On-Campus Employment

Work for UCI	Commercial Firm at UCI	At Off-Campus Location
Upon enrollment. Firm must provide services to students.		Contractual Agreement
For duration of program. Must maintain status.		
UCI		UCI affiliated location
Part-time (full-time during summer)		
Any		Integral part of educational program
Not required for eligibility		Contractual agreement
Limit to 20 hours per week for all employment during academic year		
International Center must confirm eligibility		Letter from International Center required

**CPT:** Curricular Practical Training, **OPT:** Optional Practical Training, **DSO:** Designated School Official, **EAD:** Employment Authorization Document