



Employment/Internships

EMPLOYMENT (ON-CAMPUS)

Eligibility Requirements

You may work on campus provided you are maintaining F-1 status and you do not work more than a total of 20 hours per week while school is in session. This includes any work done in connection with an assistantship. You may be employed full time during summer and other breaks if you are eligible and intend to register for the next regular term. Students with graduate assistantships should contact the College of Graduate Studies regarding policies related to their employment.

Jobs that Qualify as On-Campus Employment

On-campus employment includes work done as a teaching or research assistant as well as jobs in the library, bookstore, cafeterias, and administrative offices. Exception: On-campus employment does not include employment on school property for a commercial firm that is not providing on-campus services for students, such as an on-campus construction site.

Newly-arrived Students in the US

Students who have entered the US in Initial SEVIS status to begin a new program, can begin on-campus employment no more than 30 days prior to the first day of classes.

Newly-arrived Transfer Students

Students may engage in on-campus employment after their SEVIS record has been released to MTSU and an I-20 issued.

Social Security Number

All workers in the U.S. are required to have a Social Security number. Please refer to our document on the steps required in obtaining this number.

EMPLOYMENT (OFF-CAMPUS)

Optional Practical Training (OPT)

Optional Practical Training is defined as "temporary employment for practical training directly related to the student's major area of study." There are 12 months of OPT given for each program of study. To be eligible, you must have been enrolled in classes for at least one academic year (fall and spring semesters). Refer to our OPT/CPT document for more information, or visit; <http://www.uscis.gov/eir/visa-guide/f-1-opt-optional-practical-training/understanding-f-1-opt-requirements>.

Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

Curricular Practical Training is a paid or unpaid training that must be directly related, and mandatory, to your course of study. Refer to our OPT/CPT document for more information, or visit; <http://www.uscis.gov/eir/visa-guide/f-1-opt-optional-practical-training/understanding-f-1-opt-requirements>.

(Over)



Employment/Internships

Severe Economic Hardship

Students must have completed two semesters in school before they may seek an economic hardship waiver to work off-campus. If the waiver is granted, employment is limited to 20 hours per week when school is in session, and full time during breaks when school is not in session.