



F-1 Employment Comparison Chart

	CPT	Pre-Completion OPT	Post-Completion OPT
What Is It	Authorization for off-campus internship/training/research, which is required for, or an integral part of, an F-1 student's major field(s) of study during their program.	Authorization for internship/training/research, which is related to an F-1 student's major field(s) of study during their program.	Authorization for internship/training/research, which is related to an F-1 student's major field(s) of study after their program completion.
Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full-time enrollment in lawful F-1 status for one academic year. • Must be an integral part of an established curriculum. • Available only before a student completes their degree program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full-time enrollment in lawful F-1 status for one academic year. • Must be directly related to major field(s) of study. • Available only before a student completes their degree program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full-time enrollment in lawful F-1 status for one academic year prior to training. • Must be directly related to major field(s) of study. • Available only after a student completes their degree program.
Job Offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required as part of the application process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not required for the application process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not required for the application process.
Duration of Training	Authorized on a per-semester basis based on a specific internship/training.	12 months maximum for all OPT.	12 months maximum for all OPT.
Full-Time/Part Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part-time (<i>under 20 hours/week</i>) only during the semester. • Full-time (<i>over 20 hours/week</i>) may be authorized over the summer & breaks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part-time (<i>20 hours/week or less</i>) only during the semester. Deducted at 50% rate from the total of 12 months. • Full-time (<i>over 20 hours/week</i>) may be authorized over the summer & official breaks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full-time (<i>over 20 hours/week</i>). • May work multiple part-time jobs to reach 20 hour/ week requirement.
Granted By	CPT I-20 issued by OISS.	Employment Authorization Document (EAD) issued by USCIS.	Employment Authorization Document (EAD) issued by USCIS.
Application Fee	\$0	See https://www.uscis.gov/i-765	See https://www.uscis.gov/i-765
Processing Time	1 week.	Could be 90 days or more.	Could be 90 days or more.