F-1 EMPLOYMENT BASED ON ECONOMIC HARDSHIP

An F-1 student is eligible for off-campus employment if unforeseen circumstances beyond the student’s control occur that seriously alter the student’s financial condition. USCIS offers the following scenarios as examples of possible unforeseen circumstances that may qualify a student for employment based upon economic hardship:

- Loss of financial assistance or on-campus employment without fault of the student
- Substantial fluctuations in the value of currency or exchange rate
- Inordinate (not merely moderate) increases in tuition and/or living expenses
- Unexpected changes in the financial condition of the student’s source of support
- Any unexpected expenses, such as uninsured medical bills
- Natural disaster

Eligibility

- Must be in F-1 status for one academic year (two semesters)
- Must be maintaining lawful immigration status
- Must be in good academic standing
- Must provide adequate proof of financial need

Application Procedure

Assemble the following materials and bring them to an appointment with ISSS.

- Form I-765 (available at [www.usic.gov/i-765](http://www.usic.gov/i-765))
- Copy of Form I-20
- Printout of most recent Form I-94 (download at [https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94](https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94))
- Check for $380.00 made payable to “US Department of Homeland Security”
- Two recent, passport-style photographs (see specific instructions at [https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports/photos/photos.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports/photos/photos.html))
- Copies of passport biographical page, visa stamps, & date of most recent entry to US
- Letter(s) attesting economic hardship
- Current bank statement
- Other documents recommended by ISSS

NOTE: You may not begin employment until you receive the employment authorization card (EAC) issued by USCIS. An EAC is plastic photo ID card valid for one year. It can be renewed as long as you remain in good academic standing, maintain lawful immigration status, and can prove continued need for hardship-based employment.