



Optional Practical Training (OPT) and Employment at Hartford International University (HIU)

F-1 students who have been in lawful, full-time student status for at least one full academic year (combination of Fall and Spring semester) are eligible for a total of 12 months of OPT to use during or after completion of a degree program at HIU.

F-1 visa regulations require all authorized off-campus employment be “directly related to the student’s major area of study” and an integral part of the student’s established curriculum [8 CFR 214.2(f)(10)(i)]. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security reviews employment by international students with great scrutiny, and therefore, all activity must be directly related to the student’s major field of study for the degree earned at HIU.

At Hartford International University, all students that have been approved for pre and post completion OPT must seek ***off-campus employment***. Additionally, due to limited housing availability, all students approved for OPT typically must move off campus by the end of their lease and secure off-campus housing.

On-campus jobs for those on visas are limited to the following currently enrolled students only:

- Current F-1 students who have NOT been approved for pre or post completion OPT by USCIS.
- Current F-1 students who have NOT been approved for economic hardship by USCIS.
- Current F-1 students who are currently enrolled in a class and have not been approved for OPT. If a student has been approved for OPT and auditing or taking a class for credit, the student is still not eligible for on-campus employment.

Should you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact the [International Students & Scholars Advisor](#).