

About

GTSBE International can be described as the bridge that connects GTSBE with the international community, to keep international students in the loop of upcoming events to develop as professionals and individuals. This year the aim of GTSBE is to welcome international students and allow for socialization and familiarity while encouraging growth by exposing them to more employment opportunities.

Join our committee here to help plan events alongside Patrice and learn how to interact with prospective sponsors and much more.

Link: https://groupme.com/join_group/60028279/YCXAFwsm

Internships

Eligibility

In general, F-1 students must be enrolled full-time (12 credit hours) for two fall or spring semesters before becoming eligible for off-campus employment. This means that if a student begins their academic program in the fall semester, they will be eligible for off-campus work after attending full-time fall and spring semesters. If a student begins in the spring semester, they must attend full-time spring semester and the next fall semester before becoming eligible for off-campus work. Internship should be a minimum of 8 weeks during the Summer and a minimum of 14 weeks during the Fall or Spring. Employment must be related to your degree during the F-1 program.

Step 1: Getting your offer

- Set up a time to meet with your Career Advisor from C2D2 to discuss your offer letter - <http://career.gatech.edu/advisors>

Step 2: Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

- Apply on iStart for CPT
- Students must be in good academic standing to be eligible for CPT
- Pay fee for CPT
- Pick up new I-20 from OIE (Office of International Education) with CPT on it
- Check that correct details are on your new I-20 (Start date and End Date, Position and Company Name etc.)

Step 3: Registering Your Internship

- Students MUST register for the appropriate Internship Course (Students will be given a permit for the Georgia Tech Internship only after they have obtained CPT or OPT work authorization.)

Co-Op Eligibility

F-1 students must be enrolled full time (12 credit hours) for two semesters before becoming eligible for off-campus employment. Students must have at least 3 semesters remaining in order to join a co-op program Co-op program should be 3 alternating semesters and should be a minimum of 8 weeks during the summer and 14 during Fall or Spring. Employment must be related to your degree during the

F-1 program. Important note: If a student uses all 365 days of CPT, that student is no longer eligible for CPT. It is recommended that students don't surpass 364 days of CPT.

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- Apply on iStart for CPT
- Pick up new I-20 from OIE (Office of International Education) with CPT on it
- Check that correct details are on your new I-20 (Start date and End Date, Position and Company Name etc.)

Step 3: Registering Your Co-Op

- Students MUST register for the appropriate Co-op Course (Students will be given a permit for the Georgia Tech Internship only after they have obtained CPT or OPT work authorization.)
- Student MUST submit a Work Term Goals & Objectives during the first three weeks of EACH work term
- Students MUST submit a Work Report and Student Performance Evaluation (from their supervisors) during the last two weeks of EACH work term.

Full Time

F-1 OPT

Applying for work authorization is a benefit of F-1 status and the students **HAVE TO APPLY** for themselves!

Eligibility

- Valid F-1 Status. Good academic standing. You must maintain F-1 status throughout OPT
- Authorized for both full time (21+ hrs) and part-time (under 20 hours)
- Must be enrolled for a full academic year (Fall and Spring, summer not included)

OPT - Optional Practical Training

- Three types:
 - Pre (Before degree is completed)
 - Post (After graduation)
 - STEM extension
- Authorized for 12 months total after graduation
 - 12 months after Bachelors
 - 12 months after Masters. But if you get two Masters degree you only get one period of OPT
- Has to be related to major like CPT
 - You do not need a job offer at the time of OPT application
 - International Advisor at OIE approves
 - Gives you authorization and new I-20
 - Sends to USCIS - Customs and Immigration

- Takes about 5-10 days for OIE to process. They print out I-20 and instructions to mail that and the package to USCIS WITHIN 30 DAYS
- USCIS takes 90 DAYS TO PROCESS
 - They issue your EAD

Application process:

- Complete OPT e-form in iStart
- Complete I-765 paper
- Scan visa, passport, old I-20s, pictures, etc. list on i-start.
- Mail I-20, I-765 and

Travel and Visa issues:

If you don't have your EAD you can't get back into the country
YOU CAN ONLY RE-ENTER THE US IF YOU HAVE YOUR EAD
CARD

You need:

- Valid passport
- Valid Visa Stamp
- Valid Travel Signature
- Unexpired EAD
- Proof you are returning to continue employment (Offer letter, EAD card, H-1B visa)

If the application is pending when you want to go home, if it's denied you cannot get back in without the EAD CARD

OPT TIMELINE:

1. Apply on i-Start 90 days before graduation (December 14, 2019). Submit application September 10, 2019. They start processing on September 16
2. Start date has to be within the 60 day grace period after graduation. (between December 15, 2019 and February 13, 2020 for fall graduates)
3. If you don't find a job within 90 days after the start date of your EAD you get deported. You can get your EAD without having a job, but you have to start within 90 days of receiving your EAD.
4. OIE needs to be updated on change of address, employment stuff.

STEM Extension

- Apply for STEM extension 90 days before end of OPT date
- 24 month STEM extension to 12 month OPT period. You can only get a maximum 3 years at a time.
- You must be working at the time you apply for STEM extension
- You have to fill out forms to say that you are furthering your education. It's not a job, it's training
- STEM OPT I-20 is issued by OIE, not the government
- You have to check in with OIE every 6 months after the start of OPT to make sure you're still in your field of study

Cap-Gap

- After OPT you have to file for H-1B status
- For Expired OPT

Eligibility:

- OPT with end date later than April 1 you can continue working till September while the H-1B is being processed

- Apply for H-1B ASAP to get a visa change and that's when you cut off from OIE. H-1B is tricky because Trump dont want niggas in the country.

Social Security and Driver's License:

- You will need a Social Security Number to work
- You are required to report wages to IRS
- Best bet, try and get employment on campus as early as possible so you don't have to deal with it under pressure of an internship or full time job
- SSN might take a while to apply for, once you have an SSN you can apply for a driver's license

Resources

<https://oie.gatech.edu/isss/optional-practical-training>

General questions: GO TO WALK INS

- WALK-IN HOURS 1-4:30PM Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday. OIE Building Savant building 2nd floor

