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Student

Handbook

The U.S. immigration system is complicated!
This is a guide to help you understand it better and avoid future problems
during your journey in this country .

- A doctoral student in their final semester of study, who has completed all degree requirements except the dissertation, or
- A student participating in an authorized Curricular Practical Training of 30 or more hours per week.

Students that wish to be considered ~~full~~ for one of the above mentioned reasons must submit a completed

Report your new address in MyAkron within 10 days of the change.

If you change your legal name, provide the International Center with official proof of the change within 10 days.

From the time you finish your program, you have

Apply if you would like to obtain temporary employment with relevant training directly related to your major
This type of employment authorization is adjudicated by USCIS. There are two types of OPT:
and

:

Must be related to your major area of study

You must be a U.S. citizen before applying

For postcompletion OPT, you must apply to USCIS before the end of the 90-day grace period, and

To start the position, you must have the Employment Authorization Document in hand and the OPT authorization start date must have been reached.

****Students in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programs have the option of a 24-month extension of postcompletion OPT.**

Students who have been enrolled in a full course of study for one academic year and are in good academic standing qualify for this special type of employment authorization if they can demonstrate:
On-campus-

- plan to travel during OPT while your OPT application is pending
- will be traveling for an extended time period during the academic year, or
- have other questions about your specific situation.

For current students, travel signatures are valid for one year or the end of your academic program, whichever time period is shorter. For students on OPT, the travel signature is valid for 6 months. For a travel signature, please submit a completed Travel Signature Request form to our office with your passport and allow three business days for processing. The following DSOs on campus are authorized to sign them:

Jung Shin, Charva Jackson, and Nicola Kille

Abide by Laws

You are required to follow all criminal and civil laws governing the jurisdiction(s) in which you are living, attending school, and traveling. This includes federal, state, and city laws, regulations, and ordinances about:

- Filing annual tax returns;
- Alcohol, tobacco, and drug use;
- Driving;
- Immigration;
- Violence (including domestic violence); and
- Firearm possession

If you are arrested, your visa may be revoked. Discuss your situation with the International Center right away if you have been charged with a crime, especially if you are planning to travel.