Scope of the Workshop

- How to get a job
- How to get a job for INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
- Work authorization
- Salary Reporting & Taxes
Introduction

- Companies in the US are reluctant to hire int’l students
  - Firms need to “sponsor” int’l students for H-1B visas
  - Can be significant in cost and time expense

- What’s the best way to get hired as an int’l student?
  - Show companies that you are worth the money and effort
How to make an actuary

The Ideal Candidate

- Actuarial Exams
- Networking
- Skills
- GPA
- Experience
- Communication
How to make an actuary

The Ideal Candidate

Networking

Communication
Soft Skills – Diagnosis

**Verbal**
- Confidence & body language
- Content of dialogue

**Written**
- Grammar, vocabulary and syntax
- Professional communication
Soft Skills – Verbal

» Make eye contact!
» Give a firm handshake
» Pay attention to your listener’s body language
  ▶ Adapt the volume of your voice
  ▶ Adapt the length of your answers
» Engage the other party by asking questions!
» Strike a balance between formal and casual while networking
Group Activity!

- Get into pairs WITH PEOPLE YOU DON’T KNOW
- Introduce yourself
  - Answer the “tell me more about yourself” question
  - Describe the most recent/significant experience on your resume to others
- Feedback
  - What did you think about the conversation?
  - How can you/others improve?
Soft Skills – Written

- Email correspondence with professionals:
  - Subject Line: Keep it short and meaningful
  - Content: Introduce yourself and provide context
  - Length: Not more than 5 to 7 sentences per paragraph
  - Grammar and syntax
    - Read what you write.
    - Make sure it sounds natural.
Soft Skills – How to improve

- Join student organizations & have hobbies
  - Enrich your experiences
  - Meet new people
  - Have interesting things to talk about
  - Get more practice speaking in English
- We cannot overlook the importance of personality and passion
Work Authorization
FOR STUDENTS ON F-1 VISAS
Work in the US: Three Choices

- Unrestricted on-campus employment
  - Dining halls, campus stores and coffee houses, etc.
- CPT – Curricular Practical Training
  - Work related to your academic studies
- OPT – Optional Practical Training
  - “Post-completion”
Work Authorization - CPT

- Work authorization for FULL-TIME students
- Application
  - Offer letter from a company
  - Internship course 195
  - An updated I-20 from Dashew Center

Note: It usually takes 5 business days for Dashew Center to update your I-20. You CANNOT work until you get your I-20 back.
Work Authorization - CPT

- Maximum hours of work
  - Fall, Winter and Spring quarters: 20 hours per week.
  - Summer: unlimited
- Maximum of 12 months
  - Months in excess will be deducted from your 12 months of OPT
Work Authorization - OPT

- “Post-completion OPT”
  - Authorization to work AFTER graduation
  - “Pre-completion OPT” is not as preferable as CPT

- Timeline
  - 3 months before graduation (Dashew Center)
  - 90 days of unemployment (cumulative)
  - 12-months of OPT
  - 24-month OPT STEM extension (Effective March 2016)
Work Authorization – H-1B Visa

- Employer sponsorship
  - “Employer-specific”
- A maximum of 6 years
- “Lottery”
- Dual intent
  - An H-1B holder can apply for and obtain a green card
Salary Reporting & Taxes

- **Salary Reporting**
  - W-2 (Wage and Tax Statement) for employees
  - 1099 (Miscellaneous Income) for self-employed, independent contractors

- **Taxes**
  - W-2 Employees have taxes withheld from each paycheck
    - Federal Income Taxes
    - Social Security
    - Medicare
  - File your taxes in April to receive a refund of some taxes
    - All Social Security should be refunded for F-1 students
The Million-Dollar Questions

- Yes, you are legal to work in U.S.
- Yes, you will need sponsorship in the future.
For More Information

- Dashew Center for International Students & Scholars
  - Tom Bradley International Hall (Next to Dykstra and De Neve)
- UCLA Career Center
  - Strathmore Building
Questions?

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