

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT WORKSHOP

Oct 24, 2024



Agenda

1

Introduction

2

Soft Skills (Verbal + Written)

3

Work Authorization

4

Overseas Opportunities

5

General Terminology

6

Help and Resources

SECTION 01

INTRODUCTION

OBSTACLES FOR INT'L STUDENTS

- Companies are reluctant to hire international students because:
 - They will need to sponsor them for H1-B visas for full time employment
 - Significant cost and time
 - No guarantee that H1-B visa will be approved (lottery system)
- They are more willing to hire local students if international students don't exceptionally stand out!

Cap Fiscal Year	Total Registrations	Eligible Registrations*	Eligible Registrations for Beneficiaries with No Other Eligible Registrations	Eligible Registrations for Beneficiaries with Multiple Eligible Registrations	Selected Registrations
2021	274,237	269,424	241,299	28,125	124,415
2022	308,613	301,447	211,304	90,143	131,924
2023	483,927	474,421	309,241	165,180	127,600
2024	780,884	758,994	350,103	408,891	188,400**
2025	479,953	470,342	423,028	47,314	135,137***

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-in-the-united-states/temporary-workers/h-1b-specialty-occupations/h-1b-electronic-registration-process>

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

- **Don't give up!** Be patient; it's just a matter of time!
- Improve yourself by working on:
 - Resume (GPA, experiences, technical skills, leadership)
 - Interviewing skills (communication, professionalism, personality)
- Research visa regulations and plan ahead while recruiting
- Make a Plan B! Find other (overseas) opportunities

SECTION 02

SOFT SKILLS

SOFT SKILLS DIAGNOSIS

- Verbal
 - Confidence and body language
 - Content of your dialogue and responses
- Written
 - Grammar, word choices, syntax
 - Professional communication (e.g. emails, phone calls)

INTERNATIONAL VS U.S. ETIQUETTE

International	U.S.
Ok to be late if you the interviewer(s) through connections	Be punctual. Aim to arrive 5 to 10 minutes prior to the interview
Eye contact, especially with persons of high status, may be disrespectful	Eye contact is expected, as it shows confidence and engagement.
Citing accomplishments and skills may come off as boastful or self serving	Open discussion of accomplishments and skills show confidence and communication
Small talk may be minimal or occur after business discussions.	Small talk is common and helps build rapport before business.

INTERNATIONAL VS U.S. ETIQUETTE

International	U.S.
Decision-making follows a strict hierarchy and seniority.	Egalitarian decision-making encourages input from all levels.
Titles and honorifics (e.g., Mr./Ms., Dr.) are used frequently.	First names are used more often, even with senior colleagues.
Feedback is indirect and may be softened to avoid embarrassment.	Feedback is often direct and framed as constructive criticism.
Researching firm beforehand may show too much eagerness	Researching firm shows initiative and interest. You are expected to demonstrate that.

VERBAL SOFT SKILLS

- **Research and prepare well.** Familiarize yourself with words and phrases that might come up to avoid confusion
- **Speak slowly and clearly.** Don't worry too much that English isn't your first language. As long as they can communicate with you, the language barrier should not be a problem.
- **Talk about your past achievements.** Your interviewers will not know how great you are for the position unless you tell them first!
- **Be yourself and share your experiences.** Being an international student can illustrate your ability to adapt to a new environment.



VERBAL SOFT SKILLS

- Enthusiastic greetings!
 - Smile!
 - Show excitement and positivity
- Pay attention to the facial expression of your listener
 - Adapt the speed of your voice and length of your answer
- Pay attention to what they say and ask
- Engage others by asking questions. Don't interrupt the conversation
 - If you do interrupt, you can say "Sorry, go ahead"
- Strike a balance between formal and casual when networking

THE WORST QUESTION TO ASK

- Do you sponsor international students?
 - You are asking what the company can do for you, instead of sharing what you can do for the company
 - If they say no, the conversation is awkward on both sides
 - If they say yes, you risk alienating these firms by showing you are only interested in them because they sponsor

Full-Time • Internship

Early Careers: Actuarial Intern

AON Aon
On-site • United States

About the role

Application deadline	Posted date	Seasonal role
October 9, 2023 9:00 AM	September 12, 2023	(6/3/24 - 8/9/24)
Estimated pay	Location type	US work authorization
\$20.00-30.00 per hour	On-site	Will sponsor a work visa and accepts OPT/CPT

ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION

- 2 types of companies
 - They specifically say they won't sponsor (company policy)
 - Move on and don't waste time on the application
 - They don't explicitly say they won't sponsor
 - A little more flexible. Don't ask if they sponsor and assume they will.
 - Try your best to impress them
- Many companies are not black-and-white. They will sponsor international students that are more qualified than local candidates

ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION

- If you must ask, save it for the end
- Some ways to rephrase the question:
 - Do you encourage qualified international students to apply?
 - Is the company open to sponsoring exceptionally qualified candidates for [entry-level] positions?
 - What advice do you have for international students seeking a position at your company?
 - I am an international student; would you say that poses disadvantages when it comes to applying for your firm?



HOW TO FIND OUT IF FIRMS SPONSOR

- Do your research! Available resources include:
 - Handshake
 - Google
 - Ask international friends who applied and secured jobs before
- Note: BAS is not responsible for providing a list of firms that sponsor



WRITTEN SOFT SKILLS

- Keep your message clear and concise.
 - Avoid lengthy sentences
- Check your spelling, punctuation, and grammar
 - Spell-Checker
 - Auto spelling and grammar function in Microsoft Word
- Keep it professional
 - Don't use multiple colors and dazzling font types
 - Follow the formatting requirements for writing essays

EMAIL TIPS & ETIQUETTE

- Subject Line: Keep it short and meaningful
- Greeting: Use a professional salutation
 - “Dear Mr./Ms. _____”
 - Use “Hi” only later if they reply with “Hi”
- Content: Introduce yourself and provide context for why you're emailing
- Length: No more than 5-7 sentences per paragraph
 - Easier to read
- Closing: Use professional closing and sign your name
 - E.g. Best regards, sincerely, etc

REMINDERS (FOR EVERYONE)

- Do not put a photograph on your resume
- Do not ask the firm reps for favorable treatment
 - What questions should I prepare for before the interview?
 - Can you give me an interview?
 - Can you recommend me for a job?
- Do not ask firm reps if they can speak another foreign language
 - It can make them feel uncomfortable



SECTION 03

WORK AUTHORIZATION

WAYS TO WORK IN THE U.S.

- **Unrestricted on-campus employment**
 - Campus stores, coffee houses, etc
- **CPT (Curricular Practical Training)**
 - Related to your academic studies (e.g. summer internship)
- **OPT (Optional Practical Training)**
 - Post-completion (e.g. entry-level job)
- **H-1B Visa**

CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING (CPT)

- Off-campus internship relevant to your major as a **full-time student**
- Qualifications and restrictions
 - Must be in valid F-1 status for more than 1 academic year
 - Enroll in one of the **internship courses 195** (check department website)
 - “In 2024, instead of the typical tuition and fee cost for a 4-unit course of \$1,325, students supported through this initiative paid only \$208 in institutional fees.”
 - CPT will only be granted **one quarter** at a time
 - E.g. Summer internship : enroll in internship course summer quarter
 - Must obtain an **official letter** from your employer for further application



CPT APPLICATION

1. Ask your employer for an official offer letter
2. Go to the Dashew Center for the CPT Request Form
3. Enroll in an internship course
4. Submit your completed CPT Request Form with an offer letter after your enrollment in an internship course
5. Receive an updated I-20 from the Dashew Center
 - Be aware of business days!
 - You can't work without an updated I-20



OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT)

- Off-campus directly related to your major after graduation
- No need for an official offer letter from your employer for application
- Otherwise, same requirements as CPT

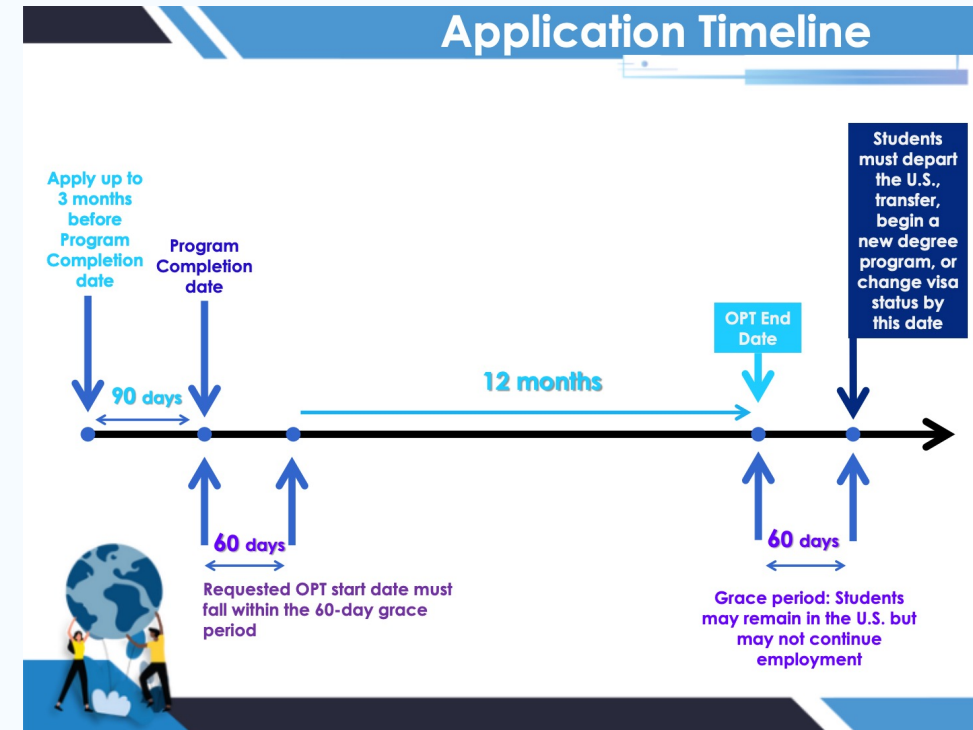


OPT APPLICATION

1. Complete the OPT Online Workshop and OPT App from the DCISS website
2. Submit your completed OPT form at an OPT Hand-in Session
3. Return to DCISS after your submission date to sign their OPT I-20
4. Generally, your firm enrolls you into H-1B lottery during this time

OPT TIMELINE

- Initial 12-month OPT, 3 months before graduation
- USCIS requires 90 days to process your application (No travel allowed)
- OPT start date should be within the first 60 days of your graduation
- Visit the [link](#) here for more information on OPT for F-1 students!



Full Slide Deck Here: <https://internationalcenter.ucla.edu/file/5989da20-2f6f-4a9c-828e-b0915b13592c>

OPT EXTENSION FOR STEM MAJORS

- STEM students (including FAM) can apply for a 24-month OPT STEM extension after the original 12 months
- Warning:
 - Qualifications and restrictions for the initial 12-month OPT are also applied in OPT STEM extension
 - Still, be aware of the timeline (business days!)

THE MILLION DOLLAR QUESTION

- Are you legally authorized to work in the United States?
 - YES
- Do you now, or will you in the future, require employment sponsorship to work legally in the U.S.?
 - YES
- Do you have unrestricted unlimited authorization to work in the U.S.?
 - NO
- **Warning:** Don't lie about your visa status. They will find out at the end and will rescind the offer.

SECTION 04

OVERSEAS OPPORTUNITIES

WHAT IF I DON'T GET AN OFFER?

- Look for an internship/employment in your home country
- Ask your friends/parents back in your home country, or Google/LinkedIn/Handshake
- Recruiting season is slightly later than the U.S., beginning in early March
- Companies in your home country may have different requirements than American firms
- It is still very competitive to get an internship back in your home country, but at the very least, the visa status will no longer be a burden

SECTION 05

GENERAL TERMINOLOGY

DIFFERENCES IN TERMINOLOGY

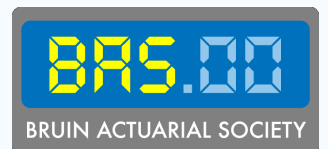
International	U.S.
General Insurance (UK/International)	Property and Casualty Insurance (P&C)
Motor Insurance	Auto Insurance
Excess (UK/International)	Deductible
Third-Party Insurance	Liability Insurance
Broker	Agent
Cover (UK/International)	Coverage
Claimant	Insured/Policyholder

SECTION 06

HELP AND RESOURCES

OTHER RESOURCES

- Visa Policy – Dashew Center
- Internship/Job Opportunities - Career Center
- Resume Critique - Undergraduate Writing Center
- And BAS!!
 - International Student Guide published by BAS (Here is the [link](#))
 - Make an appointment with your mentor or other BAS officers (resume critique, mock interviews, visa etc)



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Research, network, stand out!
- Be flexible and take the best opportunity that comes your way (especially if you are a Freshmen or Sophomore)
- Put in the work and be very knowledgeable with legal requirements/guidelines



www.math.ucla.edu/~actuary/



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[@bruinactuaries](https://www.instagram.com/bruinactuaries)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *Actuarial Field / Introduction to Insurance Workshop* on Tuesday 10/29 @ MS 6627
- *Basic Excel Workshop* on Tuesday 11/5 @ MS 6627

THANK YOU

Any questions?

