

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS + FOUNDERS FAQs

HOW WILL COVID-19 IMPACT MY ABILITY TO FIND A JOB OR INTERNSHIP WITH MY CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING (CPT) AND OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT)?

Because of COVID-19, finding jobs or internships may be more challenging. Some are still hiring, however, especially those that support working remotely. Try to turn this challenge into an opportunity. Focus on developing your professional skills and expanding your network. For practical advice for international students to follow regarding job search during this time of uncertainty, read this blog post: <https://www.vault.com/blogs/international-students/job-search-tips-for-international-students-in-the-age-of-coronavirus>. To see real-time hiring status updates American companies, visit this resource: <https://candor.co/hiring-freezes/>. If you have not applied for your OPT, delaying your OPT start date would be a good idea, as we think prospects will be better when the economy hopefully begins to pick up in the coming months.

ARE THERE USCIS POLICY CHANGES FOR INT'L STUDENTS DUE TO COVID-19?

USCIS is still processing OPT Employment Authorization Document (EAD) applications. As of now there are no delays in processing applications. There has been no updated guidance for F-1 international students currently on OPT or STEM OPT Extensions, which means the old rules still apply. Please refer to the USCIS Website for detailed instruction for OPT applications: <https://www.uscis.gov/opt>.

WHO SHOULD I GO TO WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT MY CPT AND OPT APPLICATION?

During this uncertain time there is rampant misinformation about CPT & OPT. For this reason, it's extremely important that international students consult their own International Offices or Offices of International Students and Scholars for all legal matters related to employment. These offices are the best resources for you to clarify whatever questions or concerns you may have.

CAN I WORK FOR ONLINE MICRO INTERNSHIP COMPANIES?

International students need to be very careful working with online micro internship companies. The time you work for micro internship companies will be counted against your OPT time, and not all schools support that. Check with your international offices before you proceed to contact them.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I RECEIVED AN IRS STIMULUS PAYMENT BY MISTAKE?

If you are a nonresident alien and you received a stimulus payment (either via a paper check or direct deposit), you were sent this payment by the IRS by mistake. The payment should be returned to the IRS immediately using the instructions found under **question 54** on the IRS Economic Impact Payment Information Center, found here: <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payment-information-center>.

ARE THERE ANY POLICY CHANGES FOR INTERNATIONAL FOUNDERS FROM USCIS DUE TO COVID-19?

The USCIS has suspended routine in-person services in response to COVID-19, however, USCIS staff are continuing to perform work that does not involve contact with the public. Premium processing is suspended, and regular processing can take several months. Please consult with an immigration attorney for legal questions, visa advice, or refer to the USCIS website for updates.

ARE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ALREADY IN THE U.S. IMPACTED BY THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S JUNE 22ND PROCLAMATION ON NONIMMIGRANT VISAS?

No. President Trump's proclamation is essentially a ban on new admissions to the U.S. of various guest workers who are currently living abroad. F-1 visas are not subject to this proclamation and those currently in the U.S. can pursue their OPT and even H-1B work opportunities without any impacts on their eligibility. H-1B and J-1 holders currently in the U.S. are still eligible for extensions.

For more COVID-19 information and resources, visit globaldetroitmi.org/covid19.

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