



## SEVERE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP

Severe Economic Hardship employment authorization is granted by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in increments of one year at a time. The authorization allows you to work for any employer up to 20 hours per week while you are registered as a full-time student. This employment does not affect your eligibility for Optional Practical Training (OPT). Employment authorization is automatically terminated if you graduate, fail to maintain status, or transfer to another school.

### Eligibility:

- You must have been in F-1 status for one academic year
- You must be a full-time student
- You must be in good academic standing
- You must document that on-campus employment opportunities are unavailable or insufficient to meet your financial needs.

### STEP 2: Gather the following documents

- Written Statement: Prepare a written statement explaining your unforeseen circumstances and why on-campus employment opportunities are unavailable, include supporting evidence. Examples of this could be:
  - Loss of financial support or on-campus employment
  - Substantial fluctuations in the value of currency or exchange rate
  - Inordinate increases in tuition and/or living costs
  - Unexpected changes in the financial condition of your source of support, such a loss of a family business
  - Excessive medical bills
- Form I-765 (write (c)(3)(iii) in item 16)
- \$410 fee (make payable to U.S. Department of Homeland Security)
- Photocopy of Form I-20, with your ISS adviser's recommendation for economic hardship employment
- Two passport style photos
- Photocopy of I-94 card (front and back)
- Photocopy of passport identification page
- Photocopy of visa page
- Photocopy of ALL I-20 forms
- Photocopies of any previously-issued EAD cards (if applicable)