



Eligibility to work as an International Student: F1 and J1 Visas

Supervisors need to be aware that an international student engaging in any unauthorized employment (either by more hours than are permitted or without necessary authorization) renders them "out-of-status" and subject to deportation. *Please note: opportunities which are paid or unpaid MAY be considered employment.* If international students have questions about employment options, please direct them to contact the Office of International Student and Scholar Services **before** beginning or **accepting** employment (including unpaid internships or practicum).

Research Assistants on a J1 Visa

UNC-Chapel Hill generally issues the I-20 form for the F-1 visa to all incoming international students. Exceptions are made either for persons who are eligible for and specifically request the DS-2019 form (Certificate of Eligibility) for the J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa, or for persons who are required to use the J-1 visa due to the terms of a scholarship or fellowship.

J-1 students must have written authorization from the organization or institution which issued their DS-2019 forms (item number 2 on Form DS-2019), in order to be employed on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus. J-1 students sponsored by UNC-Chapel Hill must complete (and have signed by an Office of International Student and Scholar Services staff member) the blue "J-1 Student Employment Approval" form before beginning on-campus employment.

Students in J-1 status who have written authorization from their program sponsors may work on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus up to 20 hours per week during the academic year (or during summer sessions if registered for a course). The 20-hour limit includes the total of all types of employment (assistantships, academic training, part-time campus employment, etc.).

Students may work (with written authorization) full-time on campus during the summer or vacation periods if they were in status the previous semester, intend to register as full-time students the following semester, and are not enrolled in courses.

Full-time (more than 20 hours per week) on-campus employment authorization for students may only be obtained by engaging in Academic Training.

Research Assistants on an F1 Visa

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-Chapel Hill) generally issues the I-20 form (Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status) for the F-1 visa to all **incoming** international students. To be eligible for an F-1 visa or F-1 student status, a student must be admitted to UNC-Chapel Hill to pursue a full course of study.

Students in F-1 status who have current I-20 forms issued by UNC-Chapel Hill may work on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus up to 20 hours per week during the academic year (or during summer sessions if registered for a course). The 20-hour limit includes the total of all types of employment (assistantships, practical training, part-time campus employment, etc.).

Students may work full-time on campus during the summer or vacation periods if they were in status the previous semester, intend to register as full-time students the following semester, and are not enrolled in courses. Full-time (more than 20 hours per week) on-campus employment authorization for students may only be obtained by engaging in Practical Training.

Students who accept employment are responsible for making sure that the employment is considered "on-campus". If there is any question as to whether a job is considered "on-campus" or off-campus, the student should check with OISSS.