Navigating the Job Search as an International Student

CPT, OPT, H1B, and Alumni Advice
Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
Optional Practical Training (OPT)

Career Services
International Programs and Services
Graduate Student Government
Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

- CPT is credit-bearing and authorized before your academic end date.
- You must have a job offer to apply for CPT.
- You must be enrolled full-time at Michigan Tech for at least one full academic year.
- Employment must be directly related to your field of study.
- You will remain in F-1 status while on CPT.
- You can work on CPT either full-time or part-time.
- Authorizations must fall within Career Services calendar dates.
- CPT is authorized through Career Services.
- All information on how and when to apply is on our Career Services website including all necessary forms.
- You must be registered full-time in co-op credits. Undergrads are required to take 2 co-op credits; grad students, 1-6 credits.
- To be eligible for OPT you must keep CPT under 365 days.
Questions?
Optional Practical Training (OPT)

OPT is a benefit given to F-1 students who are completing a bachelor's or graduate degree in the United States to provide an opportunity for employment experience in a student’s field of study.

- Two phases: 12-month OPT and 24-month OPT STEM Extension
- 12-month OPT employment can be paid or unpaid.
- 24-month STEM Extension may be approved for students in specific STEM fields after the initial 12 month OPT has been completed.
- All OPT information can be found on the IPS website.
Optional Practical Training (OPT)

• You can apply for OPT up to 90 days before the end of your academic program.
• Standard OPT processing can take 3-4 months for approval.
• A job offer is not required to apply for OPT.
• You will remain in F-1 status while OPT is pending and once OPT is approved.
• You are not eligible for OPT if you have completed 365 full time days of CPT.
• Employment must be directly related to your field of study.
• You cannot begin working until your OPT start date has arrived and you have received the OPT EAD card.
Social Media

Don’t believe everything you read on social media
Questions?
Graduate School Professional Development Workshop:
How to Navigate the Job Search as an International Student

Overview of U. S. non-immigrant H-1B visa
Wednesday, September 26, 2018

Madeline Mercado Voelker
Immigration & Visa Services Specialist
Human Resources
A couple of announcements:

In case of emergency evacuation...

1. DON’T PANIC
2. Take the closest SAFE exit (see posted signage)
3. Calmly exit the building using the stairs
4. Do not re-enter until given all clear by police officers or fire fighters

This presentation is for informational purpose only – no legal counsel will be provided.
Introduction

Have served Michigan Tech for over 25 years. From Auxiliary Services, Student Affairs, to Human Resources

5+ years of Immigration experience with EB-2 special handling Green card for teaching professors

Founding Advisor of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE)

Director, Michigan College/University Partnership Program (MiCUP)

Born and raised in Puerto Rico

Moved to the Upper Peninsula

Proud mom of a Copper King and future Husky
Our goal today is:

• Definition of H-1B category specialty occupation visa
• Application Process
• Case Scenarios
• Michigan Tech graduate alumna
Abbreviations throughout today’s presentation:

- **DOL**: Department of Labor
- **LCA**: Labor Certification Application
- **USCIS**: United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
- **OPT**: Optional Practical Training
Definition
H-1B Work Visa
H-1B Work Visa

- H-1B visas are for **temporary (nonimmigrant) workers** engaged in a **specialty occupation** that requires:
  - (1) theoretical and practical application of highly **specialized knowledge** and
  - (2) attainment of a **bachelor's or higher degree, or equivalent experience**, in the specific **specialty** for entry into the occupation.
    - Example: PhD Degree in Chemical Engineering performing duties of teaching and research in the field of Chemical Engineering.
H-1B (continued)

• H-1B visas are valid for 3 years and can be extended for an additional 3 year period for a total of 6 years.

• H-1B visas can be extended past the 6-year maximum in certain situations:
  – 3 year Extension: If an I-140 has been approved, and the individual cannot adjust status because priority date is not current (usually employee(s) from China or India)
H-1B (continued)

- H-1B’s can take classes which are “incidental” to his/her employment (part-time studies)
- H-1B can be full-time or part-time jobs.
- Can hold dual/concurrent H-1Bs with multiple employers
- What are the government filing fees? $460 and $500
J visa to H1-B visa

- 212(e): Certain J-1 exchange visitors are subject to a 2 year home-residence requirement; such individuals cannot change status to H-1B until they serve the 2 years at home or obtain a waiver.
Quick glance at the application process for H-1B Visa
**H-1B visa steps for new hires**

**Step One:**
Find a job with an employer that will sponsor you on a H-1B visa

**Step Two:**
Confirm the job offer and compensation and obtain employment offer letter

**Step Three:**
Provide the employer with all documents required for the petition ASAP
**H-1B visa steps for employers**

- Employer submits LCA to DOL for certification
- Employer submits completed form I-129 to USCIS
- Form I-129 is approved for the worker’s H-1B visa

LCA – Labor Certification Application

DOL – Department of Labor
I-797 Approval Notice with I-94 Card
A new Michigan Tech hire is currently on Optional Practical Training (OPT) at a different institution, the start date of employment is August 13, 2018. Is this new employee eligible to start working with the OPT or should the employee be on a H-1B visa to start the new duties?
A Michigan Tech employee, on a H-1B visa, is transitioning to a different employer. From the time the employee finishes the job at Michigan Tech, to the time that he/she starts the new job is called "non productive time".

(a) Who pays for this time and;
(b) how many days can this employee be off before he/she starts working with the new employer?
An employee has an H-1B with an end date of May 15, 2018. How many days does the employee have to be legally in the country after the end date of this H-1B visa?
A current employee on a H-1B visa has to renew the driver's license in August. His/her current H-1B visa expires on August 15, 2018 and Michigan Tech has requested an extension on the H-1B visa. However, it will take up to 6 months to receive the approval. Should the employee pay a fee of $1,225.00 in order to receive a faster approval on the H-1B visa, so he/she can renew the driver's license?
What questions do you have for me?