

EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION FOR SEVERE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP APPLICANTS

DEFINITION OF SEVERE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP applies to students whose financial situation has changed unexpectedly, beyond their control. It may include any of the following: loss of financial aid, unexpected loss of sponsorship (partial or total), substantial fluctuations in the value of currency or exchange rates, large increases in tuition, medical bills, living costs, and/or other substantial unexpected expenses.

Employment authorization is granted in 1-year intervals up to the expected day of completion of the student's course of study/degree.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION BASED ON SEVERE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP

- ❑ Student must have been in lawful F-1 student status for at least one academic year.
- ❑ Student must demonstrate that employment on campus is not available or is insufficient to cover costs.
- ❑ Student must be in good academic standing.
- ❑ Student must be in full-time status.
- ❑ Student should demonstrate that employment would not interfere with studies.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. Complete form I-538, Section A.
2. Submit a letter detailing the unforeseen circumstance of the hardship. Complete form I-765 and signature card (form I-765CARD).
3. Provide two photographs of yourself (photos must meet INS specifications).
4. Make a check payable to: Bureau of Citizenship & Immigration Services, for \$120.00 USD (fee subject to change).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- ❑ Employment Authorization based on Severe Economic Hardship does not affect eligibility for Optional Practical Training (OPT).
- ❑ You may work full-time during vacations and part-time when school is in session.
- ❑ You may **not** travel outside of the United States **until** your application is approved.

NOTE: You must meet with the advisor before applying for this form of employment. Please call 401-874-2019 to make an appointment. Print this handout and keep with you for future reference.