

On-campus employment at US universities

What you need to know about getting a job as an international student

Working on campus allows you to gain valuable professional work experience as well as the ability to make money to support your studies.

Can I get paid work on campus as an international student?

Yes. If you are an international student with an F-1 visa, you automatically have permission to work, for a limited number of hours, on the campus of the university at which you are enrolled.

Is it advisable to study and work at the same time?

On-campus employers understand that your student obligations come first, and you must always prioritize your academic success. However, even as early as freshman year, finding a part-time job on campus can be a great option. The skills you obtain from working complement your academic performance and communicate to future employers your ability to succeed in a professional setting.

What types of jobs are available?

Typically, on-campus job opportunities can be found in teaching and research functions, point of sale venues, and academic services assistance. Examples of student worker part-time positions include:

- barista
- bookstore assistant
- campus ambassador
- catering services worker
- content creator
- department assistant
- event management coordinator
- library assistant
- parking enforcement officer
- research and study assistant
- receptionist
- sales assistant
- teaching assistant
- tutor or peer mentor

How much I will get paid?

It depends on the university's location, State and type of position. The average wage student workers receive ranges from \$9–\$17 per hour.

How many hours can international students work on campus?

Session	Maximum number of hours (immigration regulation)	Number of weeks in the session (depends on university)
Fall and Spring semester	20 hours per week	15–18 per semester
Summer semester	40 hours per week	10–13
Winter and Spring break	40 hours per week	Winter: 2–4; Spring: 1–2

Students may work up to 20 hours per week while school is in session (full-time during those periods when school is not in session or during the annual vacation). Technically, if you are not enrolled in classes, you can work full-time, which is up to 40 hrs per week in the summer term.

- You may not average the 20 hours between multiple weeks. For example, working 18 hours one week and 22 hours in another week is not permitted.
- If you have more than one employer, the maximum applies to the combined total hours worked in all jobs.
- You may not average more than 25 hours per week across a rolling 12-month period.
- Please keep track of your hours so that you do not put your immigration status at risk. Working more than 20 hours per week, even by one hour, is a violation of your F-1 immigration status.

Am I eligible to work on campus?

- F-1 visa students need to be enrolled full-time to be eligible to get Student Employment: for undergraduate students this is 12 credit hours; for graduates, 9 credit hours.
- You also need to apply for and receive a [Social Security number](#).

Not following this guideline for on-campus employment may be a violation of your status, potentially leading to your requirement to leave the United States as an F-1 student.

Am I guaranteed a job on campus?

No, applying for on-campus employment is often competitive. There is no guarantee that you will be successful in getting an on-campus job, but many international students do get hired.

When am I not allowed to work?

Employment must not interfere with full-time study: don't work during the hours you are scheduled to be in class. You are not allowed to work beyond your degree completion date.

How soon can I start working?

As an F-1 visa holder in the US, you are only eligible to work on campus when enrolled in classes at your university. You may start working in an hourly position up to 30 days prior to the program start date listed on your I-20 but only if you are registered full-time and complete the Mandatory Immigration (SEVIS) check-in by working with the international Student office at your university.

Where can students work?

On-campus employment is specific to work that takes place physically on campus or at an off-campus location that is educationally affiliated with your university. Examples of on-campus employment include working at a university bookstore, canteen, or cafeteria etc.

How can I find an on-campus job?

The on-campus job application process varies from university to university. Some general tips for finding a job are:

- start by checking your university's online job board,
- visit both the Career Services office and the International Students office on campus
- build connections with your professors, tutors, and staff in your major's department
- ask your friends and classmates if they know of any openings
- keep your spirits high and maintain a persistent mindset, knowing that finding a job takes time.

Where can I hear from an international student with on-campus job?

Watch this video: <https://youtu.be/uMy2PiTEcdY> to listen to an international student.