

Curricular Practical Training

Introduction

Because of the University's three-track system and emphasis on internships, International Services has adopted a strict compliance approach to the federal regulations governing work authorization for internships.

Regulatory Foundation

8 CFR 214.2(f)(10)

(10) Practical training. Practical training may be authorized to an F-1 student who has been lawfully enrolled on a full -time basis, in an approved SEVP-certified college, university, conservatory, or seminary for one full academic year. This paragraph (f)(10) also includes students who, during their course of study, were enrolled in a study abroad program, if the student had spent at least one full academic term enrolled in a full course of study in the United States prior to studying abroad. A student may be authorized 12 months of practical training, and becomes eligible for another 12 months of practical training when they change to a higher educational level. Students in English language training programs are ineligible for practical training. An eligible student may request employment authorization for practical training in a position that is directly related to their major area of study. There are two types of practical training available:

8 CFR 214.2(f)(10)(i)

(i) Curricular practical training. An F-1 student may be authorized by the DSO to participate in a curricular practical training program that is an integral part of an established curriculum. Curricular practical training is defined to be alternative work/study, internship, cooperative education or any other type of required internship or practicum that is offered by sponsoring employers through cooperative agreements with the school. Students who have received one year or more of full time curricular practical training are ineligible for post-completion academic training. Exceptions to the one academic year requirement are provided for students enrolled in graduate studies that require immediate participation in curricular practical training. A request for authorization for curricular practical training must be made to the DSO. A student may begin curricular practical training only after receiving their Form I-20 or successor form with the DSO endorsement. To grant authorization for a student to engage in curricular practical training, a DSO will update the student's record in SEVIS as being authorized for curricular practical training that is directly related to the student's major area of study. The DSO will indicate whether the training is full-time or part-time, the employer and location, and the employment start and end date. The DSO must sign, date, and return the Form I-20 or successor form to the student prior to the student's commencement of employment indicating that curricular practical training has been approved.¹

Curricular Practical Training Authorization at BYU-Idaho

The purpose of CPT is to gain practical training that is essential to the school's curriculum. It cannot be used as a substitute for the financial support pledged by the student's sponsor. BYU-Idaho International Services has adopted the following rules to ensure that CPT is only used for the curricular purposes intended by government regulations (these same rules apply to J-1 students and Academic Training):

¹ [https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-8/part-214/section-214.2#p-214.2\(f\)\(10\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-8/part-214/section-214.2#p-214.2(f)(10))

1. Students must submit an internship request in I-Plan for review by academic department faculty/internship office, and International Services. This ensures that an agreement exists between the employer and the University to provide practical curricular experience.
2. Students must provide a signed job offer letter from the employer on company letterhead that states the dates of the internship, hours per week, and job duties.
3. Students must register for the appropriate internship class and receive course credit for the practical experience. Internship courses required for graduation must be completed prior to considering CPT for an elective internship course.
4. CPT is only approved for one semester based on BYU-Idaho's academic calendar. It may begin and/or end during breaks between semesters but cannot include days from two different semesters.
5. Students can only work between the dates listed on form I-20 and must have their CPT I-20 in hand before starting the internship.
6. Students will be allowed a maximum of three semesters of CPT (i.e., three internships). Once internships required for graduation are complete, additional CPT requests will only be approved if they provide meaningful curricular experience. Students wanting to do more than three internships are encouraged to explore internship opportunities in their home country when they are eligible for an annual break.
7. Students will not be eligible for consecutive semesters of CPT, even if on an annual break. The only exception is if a student's major requires two internships, and they are done in consecutive semesters. Rare exceptions may be considered for new jobs that represent compelling practical training opportunities.