International students

- Whether you are considering employment during your time at MSU or afterwards, it’s important to partner with both the Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS) and the Career Services Network at MSU.

- OISS can explain your U.S. work authorization options, assist you with the proper documentation in many instances, and give you tips on how to talk to employers about your immigration status.

- The Career Services Network offers resources and programs to build your resume writing and interviewing skills, one-on-one career advising, career workshops and fairs, and connections to jobs and internships.

**international students’ work authorization options**

- **On-campus Employment**
  - F-1 or J-1 students (unless prohibited by J-1 sponsor) are eligible to work on-campus for 20 hours a week when classes are in session without work authorization.
  - Work that exceeds 20 hours per week on campus or any work off campus must be authorized in advance by OISS.

- **Off-campus Employment**
  - F-1 or J-1 students (unless prohibited by J-1 sponsor) are eligible to work off-campus ONLY with pre-approved employment authorizations:
    - Before Graduation
      - F-1 students - Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
      - J-1 students - Academic Training (AT)
    - After Graduation
      - F-1 students may apply for 12 months of work authorization, called the Optional Practical Training (OPT)
      - J-1 students (unless prohibited by J-1 sponsor) may apply for up to 18 months (36 months for post-doctoral) of Academic Training (AT)

- **Goals after graduation**

  - **Working in the U.S**
    - Know your work authorization options and partner with OISS.
    - Identify international student-friendly employers by visiting careernetwork.msu/internationalstudents and learn where MSU international student alumni found work in the U.S. and their home countries.
    - Learn about U.S. work culture/values by getting engaged in groups on campus and develop your communication skills in the community.
    - Build your personal and professional network: start with LinkedIn.com, reach out to MSU alumni, and conduct informational interviews. Schedule an appointment with Career Services using Handshake to learn more about this!

  - **Working in your home country/another country**
    - Use GoinGlobal for country-specific career tips and internship/job postings. Find it on careernetwork.msu.edu under ‘Career Resource Tools’.
    - Build your network in desired country: connect with MSU alums, join MSU student groups affiliated with the country where you wish to work.
    - Use your existing network: reach out to friends and family to conduct informational interviews.

- **Online career help**

  - For in-depth information, visit careernetwork.msu.edu/internationalstudents. You can personalize your online resource search at CareerNetwork.msu.edu/search.

- **Handshake**

  - Whether you are looking for a position on or off campus, OISS and Career Services encourage you to become familiar with Handshake, MSU’s online advising, events, and job and internship resource. Access your account at CareerNetwork.msu.edu/Handshake.