

## **J EXCHANGE VISITOR EMPLOYMENT FOR STUDENTS**

J exchange visitors may engage in two kinds of employment:

- 1) academic training positions directly related to the course of study [paid or unpaid]
- 2) part-time employment related to academic funding, on-campus work, or economic necessity

### **Academic training**

⇒ Academic training is work, training, or experience related to a student's field of study.

⇒ A student's academic training must be approved in advance by the responsible officer and the student's academic dean or advisor.

⇒ J exchange students may work under academic training for no more than 18 months or the length of their exchange program, whichever is shorter.

⇒ A student must begin academic training no later than 30 days after completion of studies.

⇒ The student's academic training must be directly related to his or her major/field of study listed on the DS-2019 form and must be done with a specific employer or training site.

⇒ The student must be in the United States primarily to study rather than engage in academic training.

⇒ Any prior periods of academic training are considered full-time, even if the student engaged in academic training on a part-time basis.

⇒ Students can be exempted from the full course of study requirement for academic training.

### **Part-time employment**

⇒ A student's part-time employment (including employment based on scholarships, assistantships, and fellowships) must be approved in advance and in writing by the responsible officer and the student's academic dean or advisor.

⇒ Students must receive advanced, written approval from the responsible officer of the J visa program prior to beginning work.

⇒ Employment authorization may be granted up to 12 months at a time.

⇒ Students may work no more than 20 hours per week (except on holidays or school breaks).

⇒ Students who have assistantships or fellowships equivalent to 20 hours per week are ineligible for additional on-campus employment.

⇒ Students must continue to pursue a full course of study and be in good academic standing.

⇒ Part-time employment must occur on campus unless the employment is for serious, urgent, and unforeseen economic circumstances that have resulted since acquiring exchange visitor status.

⇒ Under special circumstances, a student may be authorized to participate in off-campus employment because of serious, urgent, and unforeseen economic circumstances that have resulted since acquiring exchange visitor status. This special work authorization includes the Special Asian Student Relief provision for students from Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, and the Philippines.