SPECIAL STUDENT RELIEF
FOR
STUDENTS IN F-1 STATUS

Purpose

This handout is designed for students in F-1 status. It will provide you with information on the conditions and procedures necessary to obtain work authorization which U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) calls “special student relief” (SSR).

Eligibility Requirements

In order to be eligible for this type of work authorization, a student must meet the following requirements:

1. The student has been in valid F-1 status since June 10, 1998.

2. The student’s financial support comes primarily from Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, or the Philippines.

3. Employment is necessary due to severe economic hardship given the economic circumstances in that country.

Other Requirements

A job offer is not needed in order to apply for this type of work authorization. Employment can be in any job and does not have to be related to the student’s course of study. Students authorized for employment under this provision may be allowed to register for less than a full course of study during the period of employment. Undergraduate students must register for at least 6 credit hours per semester; graduate students must register for at least 3 credit hours per semester.

Application and Authorization Procedures

The following documents must be submitted to International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) to apply for on-Campus employment authorization based on special student relief:

(over)
1. SEVIS Form I-20 (signed by student on page 1)
2. Original Form I-94
3. Proof (in the form of prior Forms I-20) that student has been in valid F-1 status since June 10, 1998, and that funding comes primarily from one of the designated countries.
4. Written statement which includes a specific description how the personal financial situation has been adversely affected by the economic crisis in the country of financial support, and a certification that the student will register for the required minimum number of credit hours.
5. Supporting documentation; for example, a letter from home telling of a parent’s loss of employment or revenue because of the economic crisis, or an account statement demonstrating that funds intended for a student’s education were reduced in value by a currency devaluation that occurred as a result of the economic crisis.

Authorization for on-campus employment based on special student relief is granted by International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS).

The following documents must be submitted to ISSS to apply for off-Campus employment authorization based on special student relief:

1. Form G-1145, E-Notification of Application/Petition Acceptance.” (Available at ISSS).
2. Form I-765, “Application for Employment Authorization.” (Available at ISSS; enter eligibility code (c)(3)(iii) in item #16. Next to that code, also write in the phrase “Special Student Relief”).
3. 2 photos (compliant with I-765 specifications).
4. SEVIS Form I-20 (signed by student on page 1).
5. Copy of all previous Forms I-20.
6. Copy of any previously issued EAD, if applicable.
7. Copy of passport pages (biographic data, photo, F-1 visa, and passport page with last entry stamp).
8. Original Form I-94.
9. Documents establishing that the student has been in valid F-1 status since June 10, 1998, and that funding comes primarily from one of the designated countries.
10. Written statement which includes a specific description how the personal financial situation has been adversely affected by the economic crisis in the country of financial support, and a certification that the student will register for the required minimum number of credit hours.
11. Supporting documentation; for example, a letter from home telling of a parent’s loss of employment or revenue because of the economic crisis, or an account statement demonstrating that funds intended for a student’s education were reduced in value by a currency devaluation that occurred as a result of the economic crisis.
12. Certificate of Completion of ISSS’ online employment session. ([www.miami.edu/employmentsession](http://www.miami.edu/employmentsession))

Applications for off-campus employment authorization based on special student relief must be submitted to ISSS for processing before they can be sent to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services’ (USCIS) Dallas Lockbox for adjudication.

It is estimated that it will take USCIS from 120 to 120 business days to adjudicate these applications.
Duration of Work Authorization

You may not begin employment before you have authorization, and you must end employment on the date noted. To begin early or continue past the ending date constitutes illegal employment.

There are no limitations on the amount of time allowed for this type of work authorization, which may be granted in one-year intervals until the expected date of program completion. Work authorization can be approved for full-time employment both on-campus and off-campus and automatically ends with transfer to another school.

For further information, visit the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) website at www.miami.edu/internationalservices and/or contact your ISSS Advisor at isss@miami.edu

Although your International Student and Scholar Advisor is here to assist you, it is your responsibility to maintain your immigration status. It is imperative that you familiarize yourself with the regulations that govern your status. Failure to comply with these regulations will result in the loss of your student status and may subject you to deportation.

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