International Career Search

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Backpack to Briefcase Series

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Agenda

1. The road to a successful job search
2. Understanding your options
3. It is possible!! – Our personal experience
4. Other general considerations
5. Discussion
The road to a successful job search

Where to start??

• Prepare an outstanding résumé
• Understand your career path
  • Do a little research
  • Reach out to instructors and industry professionals
• Interact with professionals
• Attend conferences (scholarships)
• Read trade publications
• Intern
• Get your EIT certificate
• Use the tools the University offers you

“Perhaps it is an unpleasant thought, but I believe it is only realistic that nobody else is quite interested in your career as you yourself should be” – Ralph Peck
OPT (F-1)
Key Information

1. When
   After degree completion

2. Duration
   12 Months

3. Timing
   Key dates:
   - 90 Days & 60 Days

4. Document & Deadlines
   I-20 & I-765 deadlines for submission

5. Resources
   - ISSS Workshop
   - ISSS website
   - USCIS website

6. Process time
   Up to 90 Days
OPT STEM Extension
Key Information

1 When
After OPT for STEM majors
With Paid full time position

2 Duration
24 Additional Months

3 Timing
Key Dates:
90 Days

4 Documents & Deadlines
I-983
I-20
I-765

5 Resources
ISSS Workshop
ISSS Website
USCIS Website

6 Process time
Up to 180 Days

CPT

1 When
During Degree Process after completing a full year of courses

2 Duration
Part time: 20 Hours of less per week
Full time: 20 Hours or More during summer or semester

For Full time CPT:
OPT eligibility will differ depending on full time CPT duration - Check with the ISSS Advisors
Understanding your options

What is next?

H1-B

Program Electronic Review Management (PERM)
EB2 EB3 Green Card

12+24 Months to Apply (STEM)
H-1B

Employers File H1B Application - April 1st
USCIS H1B Lottery – If NOT selected, application returned

H1B case Processing – Status “Case Was Received”
Request for Additional Evidence
Start H-1B on Oct 1st

VISA Stamp

Duration: 3 years
Extension: 3 years
Program
Electronic Review Management (PERM)
EB2 EB3

- Your Manager
- HR
- Company’s Immigration Attorney

PERM Labor Certification

Employer has to prove that there are no qualified American citizens or permanent residents for this positions and foreign workers are not taking jobs away from them.
In our own experience

1. Adrian: F-1 / Scholarship case
2. Shihhan: F-1 / CPT-OPT / H-1B lottery
3. Saki: F-1 / OPT without a job offer plus REF
Other general considerations

1. Plan ahead: Accept offer / OPT start date / EAD application
2. Visa restrictions? Do not hide it!
3. SSN / Driver’s license
4. Traveling outside the country? – Don’t forget the travel endorsement (I-20)