

SEVERE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP WORK AUTHORIZATION

What is Severe Economic Hardship (EH) for F-1 students?

New, unexpected circumstances beyond your control creating severe economic hardship. These may include:

- Loss of financial aid or on-campus employment (if you are not at fault)
- Devaluation of the currency you depend upon to pay expenses
- Unexpected changes to your sources of financial support
- Unexpected large medical bills
- Other substantial, unexpected expenses

The employment authorization is granted by USCIS in increments of one year at a time. The authorization allows you to work for any employer up to 20 hours per week while you are registered full-time. You may work more than 20 hours per week during breaks and summer. EH employment authorization is automatically terminated if you graduate, fall out of status, or transfer to a new school. This employment will not affect your OPT.

Eligibility Requirements:

You must have remained enrolled for at least one academic year. You must be in valid F-1 status, in good academic standing, and enrolled in a full course of study. You must be able to show that working will not adversely impact your ability to attend school full-time and maintain academic standing. You must show evidence that severed economic hardship due to unforeseen circumstances is beyond your control.

Required Application Documents:

- [Form I-765](#) (write (c) (3) (iii) in item 20)
- [Form G-1145](#) to receive email and/or text notifications
- \$410 fee made payable to "US Department of Homeland Security"
- Copy of I-20 with KIC's recommendation for economic hardship employment
- 2 passport style photos
- Copy of [I-94](#)
- A letter describing your financial difficulties and why on-campus employment opportunities are unavailable or insufficient; include supporting evidence.
- Copy of passport identification page
- Copy of F-1 visa
- Copies of any previously issued EAD cards
- Copy of transcript

Application processing average is 90 days. Do not begin working until you receive the Employment Authorization Document (EAD).

Find the [USCIS mailing address](#) for your application based on your mailing address listed in your I-765.

Student Name

TECH ID

Telephone #

Employment Start Date (mm/dd/yy)

Employment End Date (mm/dd/yy)