Job Search Strategy

As an international student, it is very important that you utilize a variety of job search strategies and resources due to the inherent challenges in obtaining full-time paid employment in the US. It will be somewhat easier (with regard to immigration law) to obtain short-term employment or internships, but we still recommend that you plan your search very thoughtfully.

- Begin your job search early in the academic year prior to the year in which you wish to obtain employment.

- Use both campus interviews (if applicable to your interests) and self-directed job search methods.

- Target organizations that have a multinational presence.

- Be aware of any cultural differences (e.g., communication methods) that may affect your job search.

- Be prepared to coach employers on immigration laws and procedures.

Also be sure to contact the International Office to complete the appropriate working papers. For the F-1 student, practical training is authorized by the Immigration Service through CSM’s International Office. You are required to complete an application according to INS procedures, after which the International Student Advisor may endorse practical training. We strongly recommend that you contact the International Office at least 90 days prior to graduation to obtain the necessary application and more detailed information regarding practical training. If you apply later you may not be able to begin work when you wish and/or may have difficulty traveling outside of the US.

For J-1 students, “Academic Training” is approved and authorized by the International Student & Scholar Services Office. You are required to submit an offer of employment letter that shows that the work you will be doing is in the same field as your major. You must have the authorization letter within 30 days of completion of your studies. Since the J-1 Academic Training is employer specific you must obtain permission from the IS&SS office prior to changing jobs.