



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Students

If you would like to study as a full-time student in the United States, you will need a student visa unless you hold a Bermuda passport. If you hold a Bermuda passport and do not need a visa waiver, an approved I-20 issued by your school will be sufficient to enter the U.S. in F or M status. All Bermudians enter the U.S. in some visa classification whether or not they have a visa issued in their passports. (For a description of the I-20, see the reverse.)

There are two nonimmigrant visa categories for persons wishing to study in the United States. These visas are commonly known as the F and M visas.

You may enter in the F-1 or M-1 visa category provided you meet the following criteria:

- You must be enrolled in an "academic" educational program, a language-training program, or a vocational program.
- Your school must be approved by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).
- You must be enrolled as a full-time student at the institution.
- You must be proficient in English or be enrolled in courses leading to English proficiency.
- You must have sufficient funds available for self-support during the entire proposed course of study.
- You must maintain a residence abroad which he/she has no intention of giving up.

Students and Employment

Students with F-1 visa status may not work off-campus during the first academic year, but may accept on-campus employment subject to certain conditions and restrictions. There are various programs available for F-1 students to seek off-campus employment, after the first academic year. F-1 students may engage in three types of off-campus employment, after they have studying for one academic year. These three types of employment are:

- Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
- Optional Practical Training (OPT) (pre-completion or post-completion)
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Optional Practical Training (OPT) Extension.

Students with M-1 visa status may engage in practical training only after they have completed their studies.

For both F-1 and M-1 students any off-campus employment must be related to their area of study and must be authorized prior to starting any work by the Designated School Official (the person authorized to maintain the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)) and USCIS.