



To whom it may concern,

Thank you for considering an international LCSC graduate for employment/internship at your company. Kindly allow me to clarify the Optional Practical Training (OPT) program. Recent graduates on the F student visa are eligible for 12 months of employment authorization immediately after earning their degrees through a program called Optional Practical Training. Graduates in the STEM fields are also eligible for an additional 24-month extension of employment authorization if they are working for a company that is registered with E-Verify.

This experience offers graduates an opportunity to learn and practice critical job skills that will add to their value as employees and as LCSC graduates. International employees add value to your work environment because they are often bilingual and have a demonstrated ability to adapt and thrive in a foreign environment.

International graduates can be authorized to work in the United States by applying for Optional Practical Training, (OPT). The employment must be directly related to the most current degree earned. **You are not required to sponsor the student in any way.** There is no fiscal or legal liability for employees who hire a student with approved OPT.

OPT is a benefit of the F visa. In order to be authorized for employment, the student must apply to the Office of International Programs *and* U.S. Customs and Immigration Services, USCIS. The authorization process takes approximately three months. Once approved for OPT, the graduate will receive an Employment Authorization Card, (EAD). He or she cannot begin working until they have the card in hand. The EAD card and a notation on the third page of the I-20 is proof of eligibility to work in the United States.

Please feel free to contact the Office of International Programs with your questions. You can also find information at [studyinthestates.dhs.gov](http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov).

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly Neyer".

Holly Neyer

Coordinator

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**International Programs**

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