

INTERNATIONALINK

Volume 4, Issue 3 Your Link To UF International News March 2010



The High Cost of Illegal Work

One topic I always address during orientation with new students is the topic of legal employment in The United States. Work experience in the U.S. is highly desired by many international students for many reasons. Getting a job in the U.S. often will make a student more desirable in the work force back in their home country. For some students working in the U.S. helps them survive the high cost of education and living. Although they are warned of the danger of working illegally in the country the temptation to find employment in other cities becomes too much. When a student has friends who are doing it or has relatives who own a business they often give into temptation knowing the dangers.

Those dangers became a reality for some of our students in the past couple of weeks. Seven students that we know of (there may be more) have been deported from the U.S. with little chance of ever returning to finish their program due to working illegally. There's a high cost to working illegally. These students must face their families who have supported them in coming to the U.S. to study, have thrown away their dream of studying and working in the U.S., have tarnished the image of the university with immigration authorities and will make it more difficult for current and future international students seeking employment. When a student is caught working illegally it hurts more than just the student involved. The costs for working illegally are easily avoided by understanding some simple regulations and knowing how to get proper work authorization.

The Department of State defines employment simply as receiving any type of compensation for services rendered. A student could provide any type of service for a company or organization and if they are compensated with money, room and board, travel expenses or any other type of payment for those services it is considered employment by the DOS. An F-1 visa holder is limited in the types of employment he or she can acquire. All F-1 students in good status are immediately authorized to work on campus when they arrive. If an F-1 student wants to work off campus they must receive work authorization before beginning employment. CPT is work authorization a student can receive while they are in their program and OPT is work authorization that is received after the student is finished with their program. Both CPT and OPT are internship experiences where the employment must relate to their field of study in some way. CPT is a relatively easy form of work authorization to receive, has no cost to apply and can be completed usually within two business days. The student needs to stop into the Office of International Admissions and Services to begin the CPT application. We hold monthly sessions for students who are about to finish their program and help them, step-by-step, apply for OPT.

Ultimately it is a student's responsibility to do what is right. I always tell the students in orientation that just because your friends are working illegally and getting away with it doesn't mean you should. There are people who rob banks and commit crimes daily that get away with it but it doesn't mean it's the right thing to do. Leaving home and going to a university is more than just gaining knowledge, skills and money. It is about growing as a person, developing character and making the right decisions to be a better individual. When you do the right thing, good things come to you. As The University of Findlay asks, "who will you be?"



Immigration Highlight

Your I-20 Expiration Date

One of the most important dates you need to remember is also one of the most easily overlooked dates. It is the Program End Date on your I-20.

HOW YOU CAN CHECK: You can check by looking at PAGE 1 of your I-20 under NUMBER 5 where it reads "...and complete studies not later than (date)" The date listed there is the expiration date of your I-20.

WHAT TO DO: If your I-20 is going to expire and you still have classes to take, stop into the Office of International Admissions and Services and pick up a Program Extension form. Take the form to your Academic Advisor to fill out and return it to us. I will then extend your I-20 to the new date when you will complete.

WHAT IF IT EXPIRES: If your I-20 expires and you still have classes to take, you will need to apply for a Reinstatement with the USCIS. The reinstatement will cost around \$300. When you submit your reinstatement the government decides to approve or deny your application. If they deny your application you would need to return home immediately even if you have further classes to take at UF. This is why it is important to make sure your I-20 does not expire!

What's Happening

Interested in being a

SUMMER R.A.??



Attend one of our Summer R.A. info sessions!

Tuesday March 23rd, 2010 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

AMU Endly Room



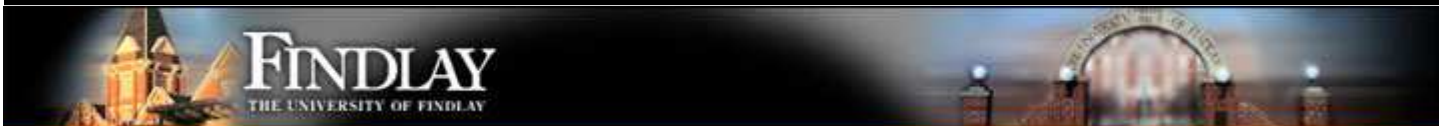
INTERNATIONAL NIGHT UF2010



One World One Family

The University of Findlay
April 16th, 2010
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Alumni Memorial Union

Contact International Admissions and Services for more information
419-434-4558

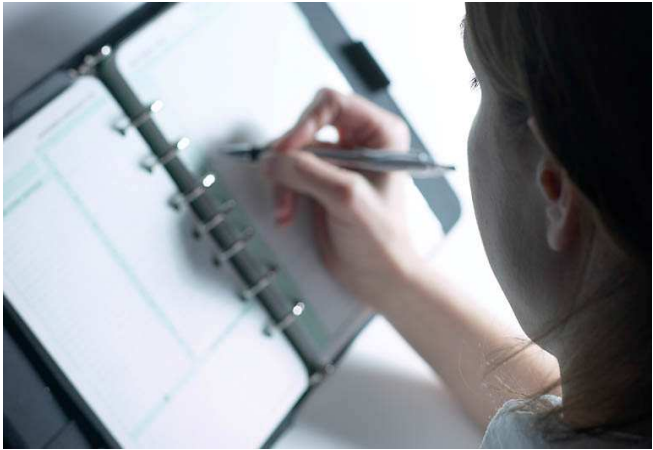


OPT Application Session

OPT Application Sessions are held in the Endly Room of the AMU promptly at 9:30 a.m. Please download and complete the OPT Application Packet from our web site before you attend the session. The application can be found at:

<http://www.findlay.edu/admissions/info/international/immigrationinformation/f1student/default.htm>

OPT APPLICATION DATES	
2010	<p>Sessions are limited to 40 students.</p> <p>Sign up in our office to reserve your seat!</p>
January 7 (TH)	
February 4 (TH)	
March 4 (TH)	
April 6	
May 4	
June 8	
July 6	
August 3	
September 7	
October 5	
November 2	
December 7	



Mark Your Calendar!

Free Shuttle Service!



No transportation? No problem! You can catch our shuttle service every Thursday and Saturday at the AMU!

The shuttle runs:

- Every Tuesday to Asian Grocery store (first stop only) and Meijers from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Every Thursday to the Findlay Village Mall from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Every Saturday to Walmart from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



The University of Findlay, in Findlay, Ohio, has a longstanding tradition of welcoming international students to its campus. Each year, we welcome over 200 new international students from over 40 different countries and territories.

Learn more about International Admissions and Services on the web!

<http://www.findlay.edu/admissions/info/international/default.htm>

International Admissions and Services

1214 North Cory Street
Findlay, Ohio 45840

