

Illinois Institute of Technology

International Center
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ECONOMIC HARDSHIP **[(8 CFR 214.2(f)(9)(II)(F))]**

06/07

Definition and Eligibility

An F-1 student who has maintained his/her status for an academic year and is in good academic standing may apply for off-campus employment based on **unforeseen economic hardship**. Economic hardship is defined as a “loss of financial aid or on-campus employment without fault on the part of the student, substantial fluctuations in the value of currency or exchange rate, inordinate increases in tuition and/or living expenses” (8CFR 214.2 (f)(9)(ii)F)).

Required Documentation and Procedures:

1. Completed form I-765 - <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/I-765.pdf>
2. Copies of previous I-20(s)
3. Photocopy of I-94 card (front and back) and copies of your passport (relevant biographic and U.S. visa pages.)
4. A check for \$340 payable to CIS
5. 2 photographs with name and I-94 number printed on the back (See specification Sheet)
6. A letter from the student explaining the **unforeseen financial circumstances and detailed supporting documentation including a projected budget**.

Please submit the above documents to the International Center to obtain an endorsement on your I-20. It takes approximately 4 days for our office to process your application. Your next step is to mail the completed application to US CIS. You will receive a letter of receipt from US CIS within 10 to 30 days. **It usually takes 60-90 days to obtain the EAD (Employment Authorization Document) card. Please keep in mind that this may take longer depending on the time of application.**

Issues to Consider:

- **You are only allowed to work AFTER receiving the EAD card and only during the actual dates of authorization**
- **Employment authorization based on severe economic hardship is limited to 20 hours per week when school is in session and full-time during semester breaks and summer vacations.**
- **This type of employment does not have to be related to the student’s program of study.**
- **The work permit is given for the period of one year and it can be renewed. It is automatically cancelled if a student fails to maintain his/her F-1 status or transfers to another school.**
- **Students should make a “good faith effort” to locate on-campus employment prior to applying for economic hardship.**