

Severe Economic Hardship

Any F-1 student suffering "severe economic hardship" as defined by USCIS is eligible to work off-campus for up to 20 hours per week while school is in session, and full-time (up to 40 hours per week) during breaks.

- **DEFINITION:**

- **Severe Economic Hardship** means any "unforeseen circumstance beyond the student's control." These circumstances may include circumstances, such as:
 - 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 costs.
 - unexpected changes in the financial condition of the student's source of support
 - medical bills or other substantial and unexpected expenses.

- **ELIGIBILITY:**

- **To be eligible under "severe economic hardship," a student must:**
 1. Be in valid F-1 status for at least one academic year at the current institution of study.
 2. Be in good academic standing.
 3. Provide evidence (written, official documentation, or by whatever other means the International Student Office deems is worthy) of economic hardship based on unforeseen circumstances beyond the student's control.
 4. Make a good faith effort to locate employment on campus before applying.
 5. Show in writing that on-campus employment is neither available nor sufficient.
 6. Notify the International Student Office of your intentions and request in order to start the process.
 7. If approved by the institution, most of the elements of applying for economic hardship must be completed by the student through an external government agency (USCIS) and also require additional fees.