

## **SEVERE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP**

### **Work Authorization for F-1 Students**

F-1 students who have been enrolled full-time, are in good academic standing, and have had F-1 status for a minimum of one academic year are eligible to apply for employment authorization due to economic hardship. Employment may be authorized for up to a maximum of one year and is limited to 20 hours per week during academic semesters (full-time during vacation periods).

To qualify under this provision you must demonstrate that the employment is necessary to avoid severe economic hardship due to unforeseen circumstances beyond your control and that on-campus employment opportunities are unavailable or insufficient to meet your needs.

**To apply for employment authorization please bring the following documents to the Coordinator for International Support [CISS]:**

- Letter explaining severe economic hardship. In this letter, you should discuss the hardship situation, your effort to find on campus employment, and include a list of all income, assets, and expenses.
- Current passport, visa and I-94 card
- Current I-20
- Form I-765 [obtain from the CISS or download from SEVIS site] <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/I-765.pdf>
- 2 “Greencard” photos
- Check or money order made out to Department of Homeland Security (the USCIS I-765 form site will have the current fee)

The CISS will review your documentation of economic hardship and, if appropriate, will recommend authorization for a period of up to one year. The Coordinator for International Student Support will mail your application to U.S. Citizenship & Immigration and Services for processing. It will take USCIS approximately 90 days to process an application for work authorization based on economic hardship.

**Coordinator for International Student Support  
Holbrook 219A**