

F-1 International Students & Internships:

Get Work Authorization Before Your Internship Starts

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) (F-1)

If your major requires a practicum for degree completion or you enrolled in a for-credit course that requires internship hours, you may qualify for Curricular Practical Training (CPT) authorization.

CPT authorization is required for any curricular placement or for-credit internship, whether paid or unpaid, including:

1. An internship or practicum that is required for degree completion
2. An internship required for a course offered in the BU course catalog for which a student will earn academic credit
3. An off-campus placement arranged by BU to pursue graduate thesis or dissertation research that cannot be accomplished on campus, and is required to complete your degree program

If the Internship Is Not Required

An internship must meet an academic (or “curricular”) requirement to qualify for CPT authorization.

If you have an internship or employment opportunity that offers “excellent” or “relevant” experience to your major field, but is not required for your program as defined above, you will need to apply for and be approved for Optional Practical Training (OPT) in order to accept that position. Learn more about OPT here: <http://www.bu.edu/isso/employment-internships/student-off-campus-work-and-training/optional/>

Applying for CPT Authorization

In order to apply for CPT authorization, you will need to go to the ISSO’s website to learn about the application process: <http://www.bu.edu/isso/employment-internships/student-off-campus-work-and-training/curricular-practical-training-cpt-f-1/>

When to Apply

You must have CPT authorized BEFORE you begin work or placement. CPT is authorized by your ISSO Advisor for a specific employer, location, hours and dates. You should always plan to obtain the CPT authorization at least a few weeks before you wish to begin your internship. If there is a change of employer, job location, or dates of employment, you must reapply for CPT.

Questions?

Talk to or email your ISSO Advisor Ashlee Anton (aanton@bu.edu) for more details about your situation.