



Dear Employer,

Thank you for considering a University of South Carolina Aiken international student for employment with your company!

As you may know, international students are eligible to apply for permission to engage in temporary employment in order to gain hands-on experience in their fields of study. This type of employment is referred to as Practical Training.

Practical Training may be authorized *before* completion of studies on a part-time or full-time basis, depending on the category of Practical Training. Employment *after* graduation may be authorized on a full-time basis for up to twelve months.

Students apply for Practical Training through the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in coordination with the USCA Office of International Programs. Students who have been authorized for employment for Practical Training will have either an I-20 Certificate of Eligibility for F-1 Student Status endorsed on page three for "curricular or optional practical training," or an Employment Authorization Document (EAD card) issued by Immigration.

Employers who hire students authorized for Practical Training are not required to document recruitment efforts, nor are they required to pay fees or complete complicated paperwork.

If an employer wants to employ a USCA international graduate beyond the 12-month Practical Training limit, an extension may be possible, depending on the student's field of study. The employer must be enrolled in USCIS's E-Verify program, and minimal reporting requirements may be required. Also, it is often possible to secure an H-1B Temporary Worker visa. The employer must petition the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services on the international's behalf.

For additional information about Practical Training and other employment opportunities that may be available to international students, please contact our office at international@usca.edu or call 803-641-3671.

Sincerely,

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