

## **Severe Economic Hardship (SEH) Employment (for F-1 Students)**

Under certain circumstances, F-1 students who have been lawfully enrolled for one full academic year can apply for Severe Economic Hardship (SEH) Employment, which will allow them to work off-campus for no more than 20 hours a week while school is in session (during the Fall or Spring semesters). A job offer is NOT needed to apply for SEH employment, and the work does NOT need to be related to the student's major field of study.

### **The following circumstances MUST exist before a student can apply for Severe Economic Hardship Employment:**

- ▶ The student MUST have been in F-1 status for at least one full academic year.
- ▶ The student MUST be able to prove that the employment is necessary due to severe economic hardship caused by circumstances beyond his/her control which arose after the F-1 status was obtained (such circumstances would include an economic crisis in the student's home country).
- ▶ The student MUST be able to prove why other employment (such as on-campus employment) is unavailable or insufficient.

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### **In order to apply for Severe Economic Hardship Employment, the student must:**

- Document the circumstances that caused the economic need.
- Explain why on-campus employment options are unavailable or insufficient.
- Complete Form I-765 (Application for Employment Authorization), using the code: “(c) (3) (iii)” for item #16 on the form. The I-765 can be obtained here: <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis> (Click on the “Immigration Forms” tab.)
- Obtain 2 passport style photos.
- Prepare a bank check or money order made payable to “USCIS”. The cost is \$340.
- Make an appointment for the Office of International Student Services (OISS) to process your application (352-4130).
- Bring all of the items listed above AND your passport, I-94 card, and all I-20s you ever received with you to the appointment. (Without all of these items, your application cannot be processed by the OISS.)

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