The International Office

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
ENGINEERING CO-OP EMPLOYER FORUM
April 27, 2011

Nick Seamons, Assistant Director
International Office

► International Student Population = 2,978
  - Current students = 2,362
  - F-1 OPT and STEM students = 313
  - F-2/J-2 Dependents = 303
  - Mostly doctorate (910), Professional (673), Undergraduate (508), Master’s (271)
► 106 countries represented
  - Top sending countries (China 526, South Korea 303, India 255, Canada 148, Taiwan 96)

► International Scholar Population = 1,539
  - J-1 Exchange Visitors = 881
  - H-1B Beneficiaries = 631
  - B-1, E-3, TN = 26
  - O-1 = 1
  - Top sending countries (China, South Korea, India, Germany, France, Canada)

► Key Points
  - International Office = Immigration related government relations.
  - International student population increased by 6% from fall 2009 to fall 2010.
  - Ten year enrollment trend shows an increase of approximately 5% each fall.
  - Current population: 62% male; 38% female
  - Vast majority come in F-1 student status (versus J-1 student status)
  - Nearly 39% of all international students are in doctoral programs.
  - 60% of all international students come from Asia.
Top 5 Undergraduate Majors

- Undeclared, 136
- Economics, 67
- Industrial Engineering, 53
- Communication Studies, 25
- Chemical Engineering, 18
Top 5 Masters Programs

- Integrated Marketing Communications, 73
- Electrical & Computer Engineering, 26
- Biotechnology, 25
- Editorial Journalism, 18
- Computer Science, 16
Top 5 Professional Programs

- Masters of Business Administration, 318
- Masters of Management and Manufacturing, 31
- NU Law - LLM, 68
- Non-Degree Exchange (KSM), 70
- NU Law - JD, 29
Top 5 Doctoral Programs

1. Economics, 88
2. Materials Science and Engineering, 58
3. Electrical and Computer Engineering, 55
4. Mechanical Engineering, 47
5. Physics and Astronomy, 43
International Student Employment

- F-1 students via CPT or OPT
- J-1 students via Academic Training
- Sponsorship remains with the university as opposed to the employer, unless a Change of Status occurs (e.g. F-1 → H-1B)
- Highlight: OPT Regulations for STEM Fields
  - Up to 29-months of authorization
F-1 Employment Benefits

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) - while in school.
- Full-time F-1 status for academic year.
- Be in good academic standing.
- The requested training must be an integral part of your program of study.
- Academic advisor must sign the CPT application form.
- Must provide an employment offer letter.
- Authorization required before work!
  - Page 3 of I-20
  - Adjudicated at IO
- Part-Time: Unlimited (20hrs/wk).
- Full-Time: No more than 12 months.

Optional Practical Training (OPT) - post-graduation.
- Full-time F-1 status for academic year.
- Be in good academic standing.
- 12-months available per academic level.
- Offer of employment not required.
- Authorization is required before work!
  - Two Step Process: 1) IO; 2) USCIS
  - Employment Authorization Doc (EAD)
- Apply 90-days prior to program end-date.

Sorting employment authorization is the responsibility of the student.
F-1 Employment Benefits (cont.)

**Cap-Gap Relief**
Gap between end of OPT and effective start of H-1B.

- **Cap-Gap OPT End-Date before April 1:**
  - Upon approval, F-1 may stay, but not work.
- **Cap-Gap OPT End-Date after April 1:**
  - Upon approval, F-1 employment period extended to Sept 30.

**STEM Extension**
17-month extension for eligible F-1’s currently on OPT who meet the following:

- Graduated with a STEM designated degree ([ICE website](https://www.ice.gov/)).
- Working for an E-Verify Company.
- Working in a position directly related to field of study.

Application adjudicated by USCIS, with university recommendation—apply 90 days prior to end of initial 12-mos OPT period.
J-1 Employment Benefits

Academic Training (AT)

- May be authorized before or after the completion of an academic program.
- AT done prior to program completion is deducted from the total amount available.
- AT authorization from the IO must be received prior to starting, and is adjudicated by university.
- Any student in a program less-than 18-months may be eligible for a period of AT equivalent to the length time spent in a full-time course of study in the U.S.
- Doctoral students are eligible for two 18-month periods of AT—the second period is only awarded once the PhD has been completed.