Are you an international student in F-1 or J-1 status?

If the answer is yes, you **must** obtain employment authorization for any internship or practicum experience that you find off-campus.

What type of opportunities require employment authorization?

International students need employment authorization for the following positions or opportunities:

- **Paid or Unpaid Internships required by program of study**
  - Work authorization is required for CH-180, regardless of the type of position that you will be holding throughout the duration of the internship.

- **Paid or unpaid internships not required by program of study**
  - Students desiring to get experience in an off-campus setting will need to obtain employment authorization for any internship position that requires training, administrative work, or services provided to an employer who will benefit directly from your work.

- **Volunteer Positions**
  - If you are providing your volunteer services for any organization where you or your employer are receiving professional benefit, you need to obtain employment authorization.

What type of opportunities do NOT require employment authorization?

Volunteer positions that do not require employment authorization are those that can be considered charitable work. For example, charity and/or religious based activities. The main purpose of these positions is to benefit the community, not the individual performing the tasks or the organization sponsoring the event. Some examples of charitable work are:

- Cooking and serving food at a soup kitchen
- Distributing food at community pantries
- Helping to distribute winter clothing for people in need
- Serving in an unpaid role in the religious community
- Walking dogs at local pet shelter

Follow the I-Center’s advice for maintaining F-1 or J-1 Status:

If you are unsure or have any questions regarding employment authorization, please contact your International Student Advisor at: internationalcenter@tufts.edu