

# U.S. Jobs For International Students



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# U.S Internship & Job Search for International Students

Job & Internship Guide



As an international student, you may have unique concerns when it comes to internship or job searches in the U.S. In addition to the search strategies on p. 4, consider these tips to become a more competitive candidate.

## Networking

Networking with personal and professional contacts is often the key to securing employment in the U.S. and should be a priority in your search. See p. 9 to learn networking tips and how to avoid shyness or modesty from getting in your way. In the U.S., it is very common for students to reach out to more experienced professionals. Having current professionals, Cal alumni and recruiters on your side increases the likelihood a company will see the benefit of hiring you as an international candidate.

Practicing networking is a great opportunity to refine your English language and interpersonal skills, so you can be successful in your search and have rewarding experiences at Cal. Strong English language skills, non-verbal communication skills and interpersonal skills are all crucial for international students who wish to work and succeed in the U.S., and it's never too late to start polishing those skills.

## Target Employers With A History of Hiring International Students

To view which employers have petitioned for H-1B employment visas in the past, access GoinGlobal through Handshake, and [myvisajobs.com](https://myvisajobs.com). The latter resource allows you to search for H-1B employers by job title or industry and includes companies that have sponsored for U.S. Permanent Residency. To see where Cal international students have found internships and jobs, join the “UC Berkeley International Student & Alumni Network” LinkedIn group.

## Resume - U.S. STYLE

Resumes in the U.S. may be different from CVs in your home country. U.S. resumes do not include personal information such as marital status, date of birth, or photographs. They tend to be one page long and are focused on presenting information relevant to the position. For additional resources, see the Resume section on p. 15 for general advice and search the Career Center website for “International Students - Resumes” for advice just for international students.

## Interviewing - U.S. STYLE

When interviewing in the U.S., you are expected to be comfortable talking about your accomplishments, to demonstrate familiarity with the company and the job description, and to confidently persuade the employer that you are the best candidate for the position. This style of self-promotion may seem brash or boastful, but it will be necessary to adapt to the U.S. norm in order to successfully compete for positions. Interviewing gets easier with practice. For additional resources, see the Interviewing chapter on p. 31 for general advice and search the Career Center website for “International Students - Interviewing” for advice just for international students.

## WORK AUTHORIZATION & IMMIGRATION STATUS

### **Employment Authorization for F-1 and J-1 Students**

It is every international student's responsibility to be fully informed about work authorization options in order to facilitate the hiring process for employers. Eligible F-1 international students are able to work off campus during their academic program using Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and after graduation using Optional Practical Training (OPT). Eligible J-1 international students are able to work off campus using Academic Training (AT) both during and after their academic program. All off-campus employment must be related to a student's field of study. Visit the Berkeley International Office (BIO) website for more details.

### **Discussing Work Authorization & Employment Visa with an Employer**

Fortunately for employers, there is little paperwork involved in hiring an international student with practical training work authorization. However, if your employment extends beyond the practical training period, your employer will need to petition you for an employment visa. The H-1B is a common employment visa but there are other options. The Berkeley International Office (BIO) offers workshops on H-1B throughout the academic year.

Employers unfamiliar with the process of sponsoring someone's immigration status may be intimidated by the prospect. The best way to prepare for this is to learn as much as you can about the options available to you through BIO and by speaking to an immigration attorney (BIO has a referral list on their website). You can then present the information in a confident, informed way that will encourage the employer. Employers may find the "U.S. Employer's Guide to Hiring UC Berkeley International Students" helpful on [career.berkeley.edu](http://career.berkeley.edu).

### **Revealing International Student Status**

There is no official time when you are required to tell an employer about your international student status. Most employers will ask in the online application form or by the first or second interview. International students should 1) respond honestly about their immigration status and work authorization eligibility when asked and 2) ensure the topic is discussed before the interview process ends so that employers have this information when making the hiring decision. Ideally, the employer will understand that the skills and global perspectives you bring to the company will far outweigh extra measures needed to hire you.