

Work experience in the US for non-American students

Your interning opportunities are dependent on your studies and visa

Options for students with an F-1 visa

1. Studying in Raleigh for final academic year in International Business or Financial Markets and Investments – **OPT**
2. Studying in Raleigh for one semester or for entire Master 1/ MSc 1st year of 2-year program – **J-1 Intern visa**

Options for students with a J-1 visa

1. Studying in Raleigh on a J-1 visa - **Academic Training**
2. Studying or studied in Raleigh **J-1 Intern visa**

Option for international students who currently don't have a US visa

J-1 Intern visa

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F-1 visa Option 1: OPT

What is OPT?

OPT stands for Optional Practical Training, it allows students to gain practical experience through temporary employment in a field that is directly related to their course of study. Part-time OPT is less than 20 hours a week. Full-time OPT is more than 20 hours a week. You can do OPT for up to 12 months.

Who is eligible?

Post-completion OPT is ONLY for M2/MSc students who were enrolled for one full academic year at SKEMA Raleigh, and have successfully completed their program.

What do I need to do?

You may apply before finding employment. You will need the Academic Director to sign a recommendation form, and then the DSO will put your request in SEVIS. Speak to your PDSO or DSO Principal/Designated School Official for more details:

Marie-Claire Ribeill, PDSO, Marieclaire.ribeill@skema.edu (919) 535-5704

Mariora Texier, DSO, Mariora.texier@skema.edu (919) 535-5711

When do I need to take action?

Applications are accepted 90 days prior to the program end date and no later than 60 days after the program end date. Once the DSO enters your request in SEVIS, you must submit your application to USCIS within 30 days.

Travel During OPT

We do not recommend that you travel while OPT is pending.

If you plan to travel outside the US on your F-1 visa while doing OPT you MUST have the following documents with you:

- ✓ Valid passport
- ✓ Valid F-1 visa
- ✓ I-20 signed by DSO
- ✓ EAD
- ✓ Letter of employment (on employer's letterhead stating your name, job title, brief job description, and start date; if you have already begun to work on OPT a letter confirming employment and knowledge of your travel plans and recent pay stubs).

F-1 visa Option 2: J-1 Intern visa

What is a J-1 intern visa?

J-1 visas allow students to come to the US to train in their field of study for up to 12 months.

Who is eligible?

Applicants can be foreign nationals who are either continuing their studies, or have recently finished their program or graduated from a post-secondary academic institution. The visa must be requested outside the US, in the student's home country.

What do I need to do?

1. Find a job or internship
2. Find a sponsor (e.g. Paranthèse)
3. Apply for a J-1 visa in your home country

When do I need to take action?

Please plan on the process taking 8 weeks.

J-1 Visa Option 1: Academic Training

What is Academic Training?

The J-visa is part of an exchange program and is subject to rules that are different from the F-1 student visa. Academic training allows J-1 students the opportunity to do an internship or accept a job related to their field of study by extending their visa. IIE (Institute of International Education) issues the J-1 visa and will be their sponsor. This means the student does NOT have to leave the US to get a new visa. The training period is shorter than or equal to the number of months spent studying.

Who is eligible?

J-1 visa holders in good academic standing, and who have found an internship may apply for Academic Training.

What do I do?

- Find a position (firm offer) directly related to field of studies
- Request an extension from IIE BEFORE your program end date
- Have an unexpired DS 2019
- Be in good academic standing
- Begin training no more than 30 days after completing his studies
- Provide proof of sufficient funds if internship is unpaid
- Have health insurance that meets federal regulations

The period of training cannot exceed the time of study. This is to assure that students are coming for study and not for training.



When do I need to take action?

Before your program end date. The review process should take up to 4 months.

J-1 Visa Option 2 : J-1 Intern visa

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International Student currently not a visa holder

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This document is based on current federal regulations as of December 14, 2016.
It will be modified if the statues change.