

Micro-Internships for F-1 Students

Microinternships are short-term experiences that offer students an opportunity to gain career-related work experience, gain exposure to different work settings and receive a small financial award. Selected students will complete projects hosted and supervised by Goucher alumnae/I and funded by the Goucher Internship Fellowship (GIF). There is no expectation of future work for the student.

Am I eligible?

In order to receive compensation for completing a micro-internship, the international students in F-1 status must obtain employment authorization. Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is granted for a work experience that is “an integral part of a required curriculum.” [8CFR §214.2(f)(10)(i)]. Internships, practicums, co-ops or other work experiences that are a part of your education can qualify.

In order for the micro-internships to qualify for CPT, the micro-internship must:

- Be one of the 45-hour projects
- Be included on the student’s transcript as either a 0 or 1 credit internship course
- Be related to the student’s field of study

How do I obtain permission?

You will register for an internship course in your field of study and obtain an Internship Learning Agreement (ILA). Submit the ILA to the Office of Global Education to obtain a new Form I-20 with the necessary CPT authorization on the back, which you will use to prove work eligibility. You may not start your micro-internship until you have your Form I-20.

You may not exceed a total of 20 hours per week during the academic year, and not more than 40 hours per week over summer and winter breaks of employment authorized under CPT. You may not work beyond the dates of the work authorization.

How do I obtain a Social Security Number?

You will need a Social Security Number (SSN) in order to work in the US. If you don’t already have an SSN, please see the handout on [Obtaining a Social Security Number](#) for additional information on this process.

Am I going to have to pay taxes?

You will need to pay federal, state and local payroll taxes. F-1 students generally do not have to pay FICA or Medicare taxes for the first five years in the US. Contact Karen Sykes regarding an invitation to [complete a Glacier record](#) before visiting Human Resources with your employment eligibility (I-9) paperwork.

Questions?

If you have questions about the Micro-internship program, please contact Julie Elliott in the Career Education Office. If you have questions about the employment authorization process, please contact Karen Sykes in the Office of Global Education.