



International Student & Scholar Center
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For Off-Campus Employers of F-1 Students on CPT or OPT

Social Security Card Application Process for F-1 International Students

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has made changes to the regulations allowing international students to apply for U.S. social security numbers (SSN). F-1 visa status students are no longer allowed to apply for social security numbers as a benefit of their immigration status. These students must now show evidence of holding a job on-campus or off-campus before their social security card application will be accepted by the social security office.

Each student must now receive a letter from his or her immediate supervisor verifying the position, the start date, and the nature of the job. The student must take this letter to the International Student Center for certification by a staff DSO, and then must submit it in person, along with the social security card application form and their original immigration documents, to the local social security office.

We have created a template letter (see below), which should be used to comply with this requirement.

Please download the letter, print it on your letterhead, complete it and sign it in blue ink, and return it to the student. The student will bring it to the International Office for certification.

NOTE:

An F-1 student may work while the Social Security number application is being processed. Employers may wish to reference SSA's fact sheet, *Employer Responsibilities When Hiring Foreign Workers*. This fact sheet contains information on how to report wages for an employee who has not yet received an SSN and is available online at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/employer/hiring.htm>.

Also, employers are required to abide by Federal and State laws with respect to the payment of wages to employees who have completed the agreed-to amount of work. The hiring department may not withhold wages from an employee because the employee does not yet received the social security card. See the U.S. Department of Labor website that discusses the basic requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) <http://www.dol.gov/elaws/esa/flsa/screen5.asp>.

Please contact the International Student Center at 508-910-6633 or email INTL_Office@umassd.edu if you have any questions about this process.

**Verification to Social Security Administration of
F-1 International Student's OFF-CAMPUS EMPLOYER**

(Please print this letter on company letterhead, complete and sign in blue ink, and return to the student employee. The student should return the letter to the International Student Center for certification.)

This is evidence of employment for:

(Name of F-1 Student)

Nature of student's job:

Start Date: _____ **Number of Hours per Week:** _____

Employer contact information:

**Employer Identification Number
(EIN):** _____

Employer telephone number: _____

Student's Immediate Supervisor:

Employer Signature (Original): _____

Signatory's Name and Title: _____

Date: _____

International Student Center (P)DSO certification:

Date: _____

(P)DSO Name: _____

(P)DSO Signature: _____

(P)DSO Telephone #: (508)910 6633