

U.S Job Search for International Students

As an international student, the process of navigating the job search and avoiding potential pitfalls within the American job market can be a disconcerting concept for many. Please consider these tips and recommendations to become a more competitive candidate.

Do

Network with alumni and employers

Target Employers with History of Hiring International Students

Know your Employment Authorization options

Don't

Neglect your American Style Resume

Forget to practice American Style Interviewing

Lie about your immigration status and work authorization eligibility

Networking

- Networking is often key to securing employment in the U.S. and should be a priority.
- It is very common to reach out to more experienced professionals, such as UChicago alumni, to conduct informational interviews and find out more about their jobs and organizations.

Target Employers with History of Hiring International Students

- To view which employers have petitioned for H-1B employment visas in the past, access *GoinGlobal* through GRADGargoyle, and visit *myvisajobs.com*.
- These resources allow you to search for H-1B employers by job title or industry and includes companies that have sponsored for U.S. Permanent Residency.

American Style Resume

- U.S. resumes do not include personal information such as marital status, date of birth, blood group, or photographs.
- They tend to be only one page and are focused on presenting information relevant to the position.

Schedule an advising appointment with UChicagoGRAD and the Office of International Affairs at:



<https://grad.uchicago.edu/career-development>

<https://internationalaffairs.uchicago.edu/page/about-contact>



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American Style Interviewing

- 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 be at odds with your upbringing, but it will be necessary to adapt to the norms and practices here in order to successfully compete for positions.
- Interviewing gets easier with practice. At UChicagoGRAD, there are GRADTalk consultants who can help you with practicing mock interviews.

Employment Authorization for F-1 and J-1 Students

- It is every international student's responsibility to be in touch with the Office of International Affairs (OIA) and be fully informed about work authorization options to facilitate the hiring process.
- 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. Please contact OIA if you are unsure about your options.

Discussing Work Authorization & Employment Visa with an Employer

- Employers do hire international students with practical training work authorization.
- The H-1B is a common employment visa but there are other options that OIA can inform you about. Check out <https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-nonimmigrant-workers>
- 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 OIA. You can then present the information in a confident, informed way that will encourage the employer about their decision in hiring you towards the offer stages of your job search process.

Revealing International Student Status

- There is no official time when you are required to tell an employer about your international student status, but it typically occurs by the offer stage. Before the offer stage, employers will typically only ask general questions to confirm your eligibility to work in the U.S. and/or if you may require immigration sponsorship from them in the future. It is typically only an offer is made that an employer will start requesting details about your immigration status.
- International students should:
 - 1) respond honestly about their immigration status and work authorization eligibility when asked
 - II) ensure the topic is discussed before the conclusion of the entire interview process, usually at the offer stage. It is your discretion to disclose this information, but it is a necessary part of the process.
- Employers who value talent will understand that the skills and global perspectives you bring to the the company will far outweigh extra measures needed to hire you.