

BENNINGTON COLLEGE

Dear Employer,

Thank you for considering a Bennington College international student for employment with your company!

As you may know, international students are eligible to apply for permission to engage in temporary employment in order to gain hands-on experience in their fields of study. This type of employment is referred to as Practical Training.

Practical Training may be authorized before completion of studies on a part-time or full-time basis, depending on the category of Practical Training. Employment after graduation may be authorized on a full-time basis for up to twelve months.

Students apply for Practical Training through the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in coordination with their Bennington College International Student Advisor. F-1 students who have been authorized for employment for Practical Training will have an I-20 Certificate of Eligibility endorsed on page two for “curricular practical training” or an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) issued by USCIS. The EAD will include their name, photo and valid dates of employment. Employers should note that the average processing time for USCIS to issue the EAD is three to four months, and students may begin employment only after they receive the EAD, which will indicate the starting and ending dates of employment.

Employers who hire students authorized for Practical Training are not required to document recruitment efforts, nor are they required to pay fees or complete complicated paperwork. If an employer wants to employ a Bennington College international graduate beyond the 12-month Practical Training limit, an extension may be possible, depending on the student’s field of study. The employer must be enrolled in USCIS’s E-Verify program, and minimal reporting requirements may be required. Also, it is often possible to secure an H-1B Temporary Worker visa. The employer must petition the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services on the student's behalf.

Please contact us with any questions at iss@bennington.edu

Sincerely,
International Student Services