Bergen Community College
400 Paramus Road
Room A-126/International Student Center
Paramus, NJ 07652
Phone: +1 (201) 689-7601

YOUR OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING

Congratulations, you received Optional Practical Training Employment Authorization card (EAD card) from USCIS! You may begin employment as soon as you graduate, and as soon as the start date on your EAD card arrives. You are STILL an F-1 student!!! This does not change your status with Immigration.

You may go to A-123, the Career Services & Transfer office, to help you begin the process of looking for a job. You will need a social security number.

To Get a Social Security Card:

1. Come to see an international student counselor, to get a letter of verification
2. Go to the Social Security office to get a card. They will allow you to apply for a card according to the OPT start date on your OPT/EAD card. You may have to wait a little while to receive your social security card in the mail. You can begin to get paid at your job without a social security card, tell your employer that you will have it very soon.

To Find a Job: Visit A-123 for help with Resume and Cover Letter

If you decide to transfer to a four year university while you are on OPT, or when your OPT ends:

1. Apply to schools
2. Once accepted, decide which school you would like to attend
3. Come in to see an international counselor with the acceptance packet from your chosen school
4. Once you BEGIN your new academic program, your OPT terminates