

Job Searching for International Students



Before you begin your job search, you should familiarize yourself with the rules and regulations regarding your employment in the United States while you are a student and after you graduate. You should check with the International Student Center at UCI (ic.uci.edu) for more information about employment rules.

Finding On-Campus Jobs

- **Once you know you are accepted into your program**, you can begin looking at the following resources to begin your on-campus job search.
- **Handshake (uci.joinhandshake.com)** is the UCI Division of Career Pathways' online job board and is open to UCI students and registered alumni. You can use this job board to search for on-campus jobs and internships. When searching for an on-campus job, look for "non-work-study" jobs (work-study is a federal financial aid program and international students generally do not qualify for this type of aid).

For Graduate Students

Your department may offer the following positions to select graduate students. These positions are offered to students by the academic unit following formal admission to graduate study. Please contact your department for further information. You can also speak to individual professors in your program to see if they are hiring for any of these positions:

- Teaching Assistants
- Teaching Associates
- Readers
- Tutors
- Graduate Student Researchers (GSR)
- Graduate Student Assistant Researchers (GSAR)

Summer Internships

Having an internship during your graduate program will greatly improve your chances of landing a career position once you graduate. Many employers begin looking for summer interns in the winter quarter. The Division of Career Pathways host career fairs each academic quarter where you can meet employers. Each winter, we host the Internship and Career Fair. Before you find an internship, familiarize yourself with the CPT (Curricular Practical Training) rules. If you don't qualify for CPT, explore the OPT (Optional Practical Training) options.

For All Students

In addition to Handshake, on-campus jobs are also posted on the following campus departments' websites. Go directly to their site to find job listings.

- Anteater Recreation Center (ARC)
- UCI Libraries
- Student Center / Conference Center
- Parking & Transportation Services
- Office of Information Technology (OIT)
- Electronic Educational Environment



For more resources...

Additional International Student Job Resources:

View the International Students section on career.uci.edu/diversity-career-resources

Resources at the Langston Library

Directory of Foreign Firms Operating in the U.S.
Directory of American Firms Operating in Foreign Countries

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It can take up to six months to land a career position and may take longer for international students. You need to begin your search early. Here are some steps you should take to increase your chances of landing a position.

1. Be sure your area of study aligns with the fields you can enter (i.e. you must be a US citizen to work in the defense or aerospace industries).
2. Know the rules for **OPT (Optional Practical Training)**. You should familiarize yourself with the issues surrounding hiring international students so you know what to expect. Visit ic.uci.edu/students/currentstudents/employment/index.php to learn more.
3. Research companies in your field to find ones who hire international students. Check **GoinGlobal** (you'll find the link on Handshake) to find a list of companies who have sponsored employees in the past.
4. Have your resume critiqued to make sure it meets US standards.
5. Use **Handshake** uci.joinhandshake.com to search for career positions.
6. Learn about interview practices in the US. The Division of Career Pathways offers interview workshops as well as interviewing help through **Big Interview** at uci.biginterview.com/register.

Where to Find Employment Opportunities

- Others from your home country who own companies in the US.
- Others from your home country who are employed in the US.
- Former UCI international students who are employed in the US.
- An international company with offices in the US.
- Your home country consulate.
- Network with faculty and graduate students in your department to find out about open positions and companies that hire UCI graduate students.



Additional Resources...

- **UCI International Center**
ic.uci.edu
- **Use Handshake Jobs filters to view CPT/OPT opportunities:** uci.biginterview.com/register
- **Workshops through the International Center**
 - English Conversation Program
 - English Development Series
 - CPT and OPT weekly workshops
 - Life after OPT
- **Workshops through the Division of Career Pathways** on topics including networking, resume/cover letter, job and internship strategies and more
- **GoinGlobal** – Browse the GoinGlobal OPT/H1B database through Handshake for additional information.
- **Interview Practice**
Explore Big Interview, our online interviewing platform that combines training and practice to help you improve your interviewing skills