Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and the International Student

Finding an Internship
What is an internship?

What do you know about finding an internship?
Internships

• Offers the opportunity to learn career skills and apply classroom learning to professional situations
• Provides paid/unpaid, major-related work experiences
• Engages students in U.S. professional culture to better consider future workplace and employment options
• Offers opportunity to develop English language proficiency, a top skill required by U.S. employers
Meeting Potential Employers

• **Networking**: #1 job search strategy in U.S. (80%)

• **Build relationships**
  – Join on campus groups, attend events and network on campus
  – Informational Interviews

• **Marketing**
  – Resumes, Cover Letters
  – Networking
  – Interview, Presentation, Attire
Research & Target Employers

• Identify employers who hire CPT
• Identify employers who may consider CPT
  – Say “no” officially, but have hired for “right person”
• Research employers needing your skills
• Network & Network
  – GW international alumni (Linked In)
  – Student organizations
  – Intl student with jobs in U.S.
• Consider international organizations
• Avoid U.S. federal, state or local governments
Employer Resources

Link to targeted resources in Handshake - [here](#)
• GoinGlobal … Passport Career … AIESEC

Other resources include:
• MyVisaJobs [www.myvisajobs.com](mailto:ww.myvisajobs.com)
• Foreign Labor Certification Data Center [www.foreignlaborcert.doleta.gov](mailto:www.foreignlaborcert.doleta.gov)
• Job Listings
  – Handshake
  – [www.idealist.org](mailto:www.idealist.org) (Job listings that may include OPT jobs)
Responding to Employer Questions: Are you eligible to work PT?

• **Once I have completed one academic year in F1 status:**
  – I am eligible to work off campus in the U.S. through Curricular Practical Training (CPT) work authorization in an area related to my academic studies.
  – I am responsible for applying for CPT work authorization through the International Services Office at GW.
    • I am allowed to work in the U.S. part-time (20 hours or less weekly) in the academic year and full-time summer and school breaks. Start/end dates follow GW’s academic semester schedule.
  – As the employer, you are required to provide a job offer letter, complete an Employer Agreement and Student Evaluation at the end of the internship.
Career Services for GW International Students

• **Center for Career Services**
  – Career Workshops, Employer and Networking Events
  – Student Employment (on-campus jobs)
  – Professional Praxis for CPT
  – Handshake and on-line resources
  – Career Coaching, drop-in hours

• **International Student Career Ambassadors** *(handout)*

• **School-based Career Centers** with specific resources for GWSB students, and most graduate students *(see handout)*
Upcoming Events

• Optional Practical Training (OPT)
  — Thursday, February 15, 11-12:30, MC 302

• Interviewing in the US
  — Thursday, February 22, 2-3:30, MC 302

• All About Networking
  — Tuesday, February 27, 2-3:30, MC 307

• International Student-Alumni Network Night
  — Thursday, March 1, 6:30-8:30pm, MC Grand Ballroom
Program Evaluation

• Check email for a link to evaluation or go.gwu.edu/ccsprogrameval

• Should take approximately 2 minutes
  – Professional Development
  – Marketing
  – About You

• Comments & Ideas