Daily Living: Visa Status, Employment, OPT

- Students in the dual degree program are here on a F-1 Student Visa
  - More information can be found here: [http://www.global.vcu.edu/students/immigration/f1/index.html](http://www.global.vcu.edu/students/immigration/f1/index.html)

- F-1 students are **only allowed to work on the VCU campus for 20 hours per week** while enrolled in the dual degree program.
  - On the VCU campus means the paycheck is coming from VCU Payroll.
  - Working more than the allotted hours is considered unauthorized work and will put you out of status and ineligible for reinstatement.
  - On-campus positions, including Graduate Assistantships, are not guaranteed.
  - Students must go through the required application process for any open positions.

- CU/VCU students do not meet the requirements for Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

- CU/VCU students are eligible for **Optional Practical Training (OPT)**, which is a temporary employment authorization allowing 12 months of full-time work authorization related to a student’s academic program
  - Students may complete requests for OPT up to 90 days prior to the graduation date (it is not necessary to have an offer of employment to apply for OPT)
  - Students have 60 days after the graduation date to choose a start-date for employment
  - Students have a total of 90 days to secure employment
    - **Example:**
      - Graduation Date = May 11, 2013
      - Start Date = Anytime between May 12, 2013 – July 12, 2013 (60 days)
      - Last Date in US without a job = August 11, 2013
  - Students are only eligible to apply for positions with posted start dates AFTER the Graduation Date
  - Positions posted on Darlene’s Business Blog are an immediate need unless the ad specifies a different start date
  - Additional Information regarding OPT
    - [http://www.global.vcu.edu/students/immigration/f1/employment.html](http://www.global.vcu.edu/students/immigration/f1/employment.html)
    - Immigration Advisor: Meghan Barger ([mbarger@vcu.edu](mailto:mbarger@vcu.edu), 804-828-8344)

- **After accepting an offer**, email Meghan Barger ([mbarger@vcu.edu](mailto:mbarger@vcu.edu)) with the name of the company, address where you will be working, date you started, and the name and contact information for your supervisor