University of Wyoming international students may apply to the Citizenship and Immigration Services for authorization to participate in a period of Optional Practical Training. Authorization to participate in Optional Practical Training is based upon Federal Regulation 8 CFR Sec. 214.2(f)(10). Optional Practical Training is an extension of their student status and is intended to provide the individual an opportunity to engage in training/employment directly related to their academic field of study.

Authorized students will possess an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) indicating CIS permission for employment. The EAD will note CIS authorization for beginning and ending dates of employment. The student may not begin employment until the starting date noted on the EAD. The EAD must also be accompanied by Citizenship and Immigration Service form I-20 ID. The I-20 ID, with the Optional Practical Training authorization noted on its reverse side, is the other appropriate document for completion of the INS benefit for students who have successfully completed a degree program from the University of Wyoming.

Please be advised that Social Security and Medicare taxes are not normally withheld from F-1 student’s’ pay for these services unless the student is considered a resident alien (IRS Publication 519, “U.S. Tax Guide for Aliens”).

Please feel free to contact this office if you have questions or any further information is needed.