

## Immediate Release for Sudanese and Ukrainian students at UTC

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### [Employment Authorization for Ukrainian F-1 Nonimmigrant Students Experiencing Severe Economic Hardship as a Direct Result of the Current Armed Conflict in Ukraine](#)

This notice announces that the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary) is suspending certain regulatory requirements for F–1 nonimmigrant students whose country of citizenship is Ukraine, regardless of country of birth (or individuals having no nationality who last habitually resided in Ukraine), and who are experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the current armed conflict in Ukraine. The Secretary is taking action to provide relief to these Ukrainian students who are in lawful F–1 nonimmigrant student status, so the students may request employment authorization, work an increased number of hours while school is in session, and reduce their course load while continuing to maintain their F–1 nonimmigrant student status. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will deem an F–1 nonimmigrant student granted employment authorization by means of this notice to be engaged in a "full course of study" for the duration of the employment authorization, if the nonimmigrant student satisfies the minimum course load requirement described in this notice.

### [Employment Authorization for Sudanese F-1 Nonimmigrant Students Experiencing Severe Economic Hardship as a Direct Result of the Current Crisis in Sudan](#)

This notice announces that the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary) is suspending certain regulatory requirements for F–1 nonimmigrant students whose country of citizenship is Sudan, regardless of country of birth (or individuals having no nationality who last habitually resided in Sudan), and who are experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the current crisis in Sudan. The Secretary is taking action to provide relief to these Sudanese students who are in lawful F–1 nonimmigrant student status, so the students may request employment authorization, work an increased number of hours while school is in session, and reduce their course load while continuing to maintain their F–1 nonimmigrant student status.

## Summary

Economic Adversity Employment Clearance is an official permit issued by the USCIS to F-1 students, enabling them to work off-campus due to "severe economic hardship caused by unforeseen circumstances beyond the student's control" [8CFR 214.2(f)(9)(ii)(c)].

## Qualification Criteria

To qualify for Economic Adversity Employment Clearance, you must establish the following:

- You are confronting financial hardships due to unanticipated events (as detailed below) after obtaining F-1 status.
- You are currently in good academic standing and are enrolled in a full course load.
- On-campus employment opportunities are unavailable or insufficient.
- Taking up employment will not interfere with your studies.

## Defining "Unforeseen Circumstances"

"Unforeseen Circumstances" refers to:

- Loss of financial aid or on-campus employment resulting from circumstances beyond the student's control.
- Significant fluctuations in the exchange rate or the value of the student's home country currency.
- Sudden alterations in the financial circumstances of the student's financial sponsor.
- Unpredicted medical expenses.
- Other major and unanticipated expenditures.

## Application Procedure

### Applying for the Economic Hardship I-20

For Economic Adversity Employment Clearance application, follow these steps:

- 1) Draft a personal statement (one page) describing the unanticipated financial adversity, addressing it to the USCIS. Include your preferred employment start and end dates.
- 2) Complete [Form G-1145 \(E-Notification of Application/Petition Acceptance\)](#).
- 3) Completed [Form I-765](#). (Review the [USCIS instructions](#))
- 4) [I-94 form](#).

**After completion, submit these documents to Dr. Takeo Suzuki, [Takeo-Suzuki@utc.edu](mailto:Takeo-Suzuki@utc.edu). ISSS will input your application into SEVIS and generate a new I-20 with the Economic Adversity recommendation. Please allow us at least five business days for processing.**

### Application Submission to USCIS

For USCIS application submission, follow these steps:

- Your cover letter explaining your situation
- Completed [Form I-765](#) (Don't forget to sign and include all pages.)
- Include [Form G-1145](#).
- Attach the application fee of \$410 (payable to "U.S. Department of Homeland Security").
- Enclose are photocopies of essential documents, including I-20, passport, visa stamp, and I-94.
- Prepare two identical passport-sized photographs. (Please review the [specifications for the photos](#).)

### Note

- Visit the [USCIS I-765 Direct Filing Address](#) for the current lockbox mailing address. Be sure to click on "Foreign Students".
- USCIS processing time is around 90-120 days.
- (If you intend to file for a Fee Waiver ([Form I-912](#)), then we recommend that you carefully review the eligibility requirements found on the USCIS website. If you request a fee waiver and are denied, you must submit a new application with the appropriate fee. This will add significant processing time to your application.)

### After USCIS Approval

- You will receive an Employment Authorization Document (EAD card) from the USCIS upon approval. Send a copy of this card to ISS.

### Important Points to Note

- Under this revised policy, students are allowed more than 20 hours per week of on-campus and off-campus employment during economic hardship.
- Economic Adversity employment authorization is usually valid for one year.
- Authorization is automatically terminated upon graduation, transfer, or violation of F-1 status.