Severe Economic Hardship Employment

F-1 students who have been enrolled full-time, are in good academic standing, and holding F-1 status for a minimum of one academic year are eligible to apply for employment authorization due to economic hardship. Employment may be authorized for up to a maximum of one year and is limited to 20 hours per week during academic semesters (full-time during vacation periods).

To qualify under this provision you must demonstrate that the employment is necessary to avoid severe economic hardship due to unforeseen circumstances beyond your control and that on-campus employment opportunities are unavailable or insufficient to meet your needs.

To apply for employment authorization, please provide the following supporting documentation to the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities and International Affairs (OSRR/OIA):

1. Letter explaining severe economic hardship.
   - Document your circumstances such as, e.g., a statement describing the unforeseen hardship situation, include all income, assets and expenses, your efforts in seeking on-campus employment, attach documentation from home explaining a change in family financial circumstances or proof of currency devaluation in your home country.
2. Your immigration documents, e.g., All Form I-20's issued to you, passport, visa, form I-94 and copies of any previous EAD's (if applicable);
3. Form I-1765 – you may download the form at www.uscis.gov. Go to Forms and complete Form I-176 - note to enter “C, 3 (iii) on question #16.
4. Two recent, passport-style photos on white background;
5. Check or money order for $380 made payable to: Department of Homeland Security.

The OSRR/OIA will review your documents and if all documentation is strong and can support your request for employment based on severe economic hardship, we will approve your paperwork for submission to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The OSRR/OIA will contact you once your documentation is ready to be mailed.

Note: It will take USCIS approximately 90 days to process an application for work authorization based on economic hardship.