

TIMELINE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

YEAR 1

Explore Career Options

During this time, you can engage in career exploration, consider partaking in the [courses \(210/215\)](#), or get started building a [resume](#) and [LinkedIn profile](#).



YEAR 1

Complete 2 semesters (1 Fall, 1 Spring) as an active student at UW-Madison

- In general, the critical year to apply for internships is during junior year. However, you can always apply to an internship before junior year. Just make sure by the time you start your internship, you would've completed 2 semesters as an active student at UW-Madison

YEAR 2 & 3

Explore Internship Opportunities

Connect with the SuccessWorks advisor or your [school/college](#) for questions on internship and job opportunities



YEAR 2 & 3

Talk to your academic/career advisor about CPT (Curricular Practical Training) opportunities and what class you need to enroll in (CPT requires you to enroll in an appropriate CPT/internship class every semester you participate in CPT)

- Connect with the instructor for INTER-LS 260
- Get an employment offer letter for CPT
- *{at latest 15 business days before you want to begin CPT}* Apply for CPT through Terra Dotta and complete the Inter-LS 260 application
- Be approved for CPT by ISS
- Begin working on CPT

YEAR 4

Begin the Job Search Process

Connect with the [SuccessWorks advisors](#) for questions on internship and job opportunities or visit [careers.wisc.edu](#)



YEAR 4

Apply for OPT (Optional Practical Training)

- **Up to 105 days before your program end date:** Complete the OPT (Optional Practical Training) Workshop online through Terra Dotta and request an OPT I-20 from ISS
- **15 business days after you submit your request:** Receive your new OPT I-20 from ISS
- **No earlier than 90 days before your program end date:** Submit your OPT application packet to USCIS (United States Citizenship & Immigration Services). The latest date USCIS can receive your OPT application is 60 days after your program end date.
 - Graduation would be somewhere in the middle of the above bullet point
- **USCIS processing time is an average of 3-5 months:** Wait for USCIS decision
- Receive your EAD (Employment Authorization Document)
- Begin working. The approved employment dates for OPT will be printed on the card.
- **Within 10 days of any changes:** Report any updates of employment or personal information (change in your US address for example) to ISS