



## EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY INTERCULTURAL CENTER (IC)

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### ECONOMIC HARDSHIP

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The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) permit lawful F-1 students who have suffered severe economic hardship due to unforeseen and unexpected economic circumstances to apply for work authorization.

**NOTE: Economic Hardship application process is not complete until you have signed a new I-20.**

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### **Checklist:**

#### **Eligibility Requirements:**

***You must:***

- ❑ Have valid F-1 status.
- ❑ Have been lawfully enrolled full-time for at least one academic year.
- ❑ Be able to continue full time studies and maintain F-1 status while engaged in Economic Hardship Work Authorization.
- ❑ Be able to document circumstances which lead to unforeseen situation.

#### **Submit paperwork to International Student and Scholar Services:**

- ❑ ***Legible*** copies of:
  - passport ID pages
  - latest Admission Stamp (red stamp inside passport)
  - latest Visa
  - front and back of I-94 Card (or Approval Notice with new I-94)
  - front page and signature page of ***all*** previous I-20s from all schools
  - any previously-issued Employment Authorization Documents
- ❑ Form I-765 (Application For Work Authorization), input "(c)(3)(i)" at item 16
- ❑ 2 passport size photos
- ❑ \$340 Fee: check or money order payable to ***Department of Homeland Security***
- ❑ A letter of explanation detailing your present situation
- ❑ Documents to substantiate your present situation

#### **Authorization:**

- ❑ A new SEVIS I-20 will be issued to you; this will be sent with your application to USCIS.
  - ❑ If your application is approved, you will be issued an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) by USCIS.
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**Note: Approval is not guaranteed.**

It can take up to 4 months for the USCIS to process your request for Economic Hardship. You are limited to 20 hours of work during the school session and 40 hours during vacation. It is illegal to begin employment until you receive the EAD and you are only permitted to work within the dates specified. You may work in an area other than your field of study. You may apply for a renewal of your Economic Hardship after the expiration date. While on Economic Hardship, you are still in F-1 status and subject to F-1 regulations. You must remain a full time student and making good academic progress. Transferring to another school voids out your EAD card.

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**All paperwork work takes approximately 2 weeks from date of submission to process. Please plan accordingly.**