

Economic Hardship

F-1 Students Only



Overview

If other employment opportunities are not available or are otherwise insufficient, an eligible F-1 student may request employment authorization based on severe economic hardship caused by unforeseen circumstances beyond the student's control. These circumstances may include a loss of financial aid or on-campus employment without fault on the part of the student, substantial fluctuations in the value of currency or exchange rate, inordinate increases in tuition and /or living costs, or unexpected changes in the financial condition of the student's source of support, medical bills, or other substantial and unexpected expenses.

Source: [8 C.F.R. 214.2(f)(9)(ii)(C)-(D) and (F)]

Documentation

- A completed and signed Severe Economic Hardship Request Form.
- Write a statement describing the unforeseen hardship situation and, if possible, attach backup documentation; for example, a letter from home telling of a change in family circumstances or proof of a currency devaluation in the student's home country. Explain why other employment options are unavailable or insufficient.
- Completed [Form I-765](#), using the code (C)(3)(iii) at item 16. Do not date the form until you are ready to send the application to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).
- Copies of your current and previous I-20s.
- Copy of paper or print-out of electronic [Form I-94](#)
- Copy of your F-1 visa page (except Canadians) or I-797 (approval of change of status to F-1), if applicable.
- Copy of your unofficial transcript available from [MyNMU](#).

How to Apply

- The statement where you documented of the circumstances causing the economic need.
- Complete Form [I-765](#), Application for Employment Authorization using the code: (c) (3) (iii) in item 16
- Obtain two passport photos
- Check to the order of "USCIS" ([check for current fee](#))
- You can apply for a fee waiver by filing a [I-912](#) request for a fee waiver application.
- Copy of most I-94
- Copy of the ID pages from the student's passport, or, for applications for renewal of work authorization, a photocopy of the previously issued EAD

Questions?

You can contact us at ipo@nmu.edu or 906-227-2510.

