

## Hiring International Students

Are you concerned that hiring an international student is a complicated process? Are you worried about immigration laws? **Actually, hiring international students may be easier than you think.** There are three main types of employment authorization that is relatively easy for international students to gain. These options are outlined below. Usually international students may begin their employment with your company under an internship and then proceed through the list of work authorizations.

1. **Internship-** If students have an internship in their curriculum then they may apply for this authorization. Your company does not have to file any paperwork. It is a simple process approved by the International Center.
2. **Optional Practical Training-** If students want to work in their field of study without an internship credit requirement, this is the best option. This authorization is good for 12 months. Students can utilize this work authorization before or after they graduate. This is a simple process that the International Center assists the student in applying for work authorization from the government. Some students may also be eligible for a 17 month extension.
3. **Work visas-** There are various visas available for skilled workers that international students qualify for. Employers usually sponsor international students for these visas. Contrary to popular belief, work visas are relatively simple to obtain.

For any questions pertaining to hiring Ferris State University international students, please contact the **International Center at 231-591-2809. We are very interested in assisting you with any questions you may have.** The information pertaining above is the current interpretation of immigration regulations as of 09/23/2009. These regulations are subject to change.