

Applying for Severe Economic Hardship

Please read the information below concerning Severe Economic Hardship to see if you are eligible.

- You must have been in lawful status as a full-time student for one full academic year.
- Student must apply prior to completion of study.
- Demonstrate that there is an unforeseen severe economic necessity beyond the student's control and that other employment opportunities are not available or insufficient.
 - Examples are the death of a financial sponsor or fluctuations of your home country currency or exchange rate.
- Establish that the employment will not interfere with full-time study.
- Application I-765 requires a recommendation in SEVIS by the International Coordinator on your I-20 and approval by the USCIS Service Center where the I-765 is mailed for filing.
- Employment is limited to 20 hours per week while school is in session but may be full-time during vacations or holidays.
 - Employment authorization must be renewed annually.
- Authorization ends upon the completion of the program or school transfer.
- You may not begin employment until you receive the Employment Authorization card. You may not begin employment until the start date issued on the Employment Authorization card. Severe Economic Hardship employment is also limited to 12 months unless you are eligible to reapply.

I have read and understand the regulations concerning Severe Economic Hardship and promise to abide by the regulations to maintain my immigration status.

Print Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Students must put the OPSU International Office as the return address on the I-765 Application:

*Oklahoma Panhandle State University
International Office
PO Box 430
Goodwell, OK 73939*

Follow these steps to apply for Severe Economic Hardship

Please keep in mind that filing of the I-765 can take up to 3 months once it reaches the USCIS Service Center to be approved.

1. Discuss Severe Economic Hardship and your personal situation with your international advisor.
2. You must have the items below to apply:
 1. ____ Write a letter documenting your situation
 - *The letter should document your financial circumstances, including that of your parents, guardian, and/or sponsor that is supporting you (these individuals may also write a letter, if possible).*
 - *This letter should document the unforeseen nature of the economic hardship and the unavailability of sufficient employment on campus.*
 - *You must also provide evidence that your economic hardship will be of the temporary nature. It may be denied if it is seen as a long-term problem.*
 - *If available, send financial documents, such as bank statements for supporting documentation.*
 2. ____ Completed I-765 Application – Marked (c)(3)(iii)
Download the I-765 at <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/I-765.pdf>
 3. ____ Two identical immigration-style photos (Available at the Guymon Post Office).
 4. ____ Check or money order for the filing fee (\$380).
 5. ____ Photocopy of I-94 (Both sides).
 6. ____ Letter from the DSO explaining the circumstances of the hardship
 7. ____ Photocopy of Passport ID pages
3. The International advisor will prepare an I-20 requesting Severe Economic Hardship.
4. Student must sign the I-20!
5. Bring all documents to the International Office to make photocopies of your application materials and compile the application packet. Mail to:

For U.S. Postal Service (USPS) Deliveries:
USCIS
PO Box 660867
Dallas, TX 75266

For express mail and courier service deliveries:
USCIS
Attention: AOS
2501 S. State Hwy. 121, Business Suite 400
Lewisville, TX 75067

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