CPT and OPT are for international students who have completed at least one academic year in the U.S.

CPT is work authorization that allows international students to participate before graduation in paid-off-campus internships in their field of study.

OPT is used primarily after graduation, and provides international students the ability to gain employment experience in their field of study. Students should apply 90 days prior to graduation.

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**1ST YEAR**

- Login to Viterbi Career Gateway, complete your profile and On-Campus Recruitment Agreement
- Utilize the EngageSC platform to get involved and complete career checklists
- Update your resume with Vmock, scoring 80% or higher
- Review your cover letter with VCC and the USC Dornsife Writing Center
- Attend VCC advising, workshops, and networking events
- Participate in informational interviews and research internship opportunities
- Attend Trojan Talks (company info sessions) that interest you
- Attend Viterbi Career & Internship Expos
- Utilize career resources at VCC and the USC Career Center
- Maintain a GPA of 3.0+
- Apply in the fall semester for summer internships
- Participate in mock and on-campus interviews
- Read both VASE and VCC Get Hired Newsletters
- Join a student organization and/or professional association
- Work on career-related projects
- Network with employers, faculty, staff, and peers
- Attend professional conferences
- Join Viterbi Link and/or Viterbi Mentor Program to find a mentor
- Develop a list of professional references

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**2ND YEAR**

- Take on a leadership position within a student organization
- Login to Career Gateway to update your profile and resume
- Meet with a Career Advisor to finalize your post-graduation plans
- Apply for full-time jobs through Career Gateway and company websites in the fall semester
- Request letters of recommendation from faculty and/or employers
- Attend an offer evaluation and salary negotiation workshop
- Secure OPT 90 days prior to graduation, if applicable
- Complete the First Destination Survey
- Become a mentor on Viterbi Link

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**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

- Research companies hiring international students through Interstride, www.ucis.gov/h-1b-data-hub, and the Career & Internship Expo employer list published prior to each Expo
- Visit the Office of International Services (OIS) who will help process Curricular-Practical Training (CPT) and Optional Practical Training (OPT) paperwork
- CPT and OPT are for international students who have completed at least one academic year in the U.S.
- CPT is work authorization that allows international students to participate before graduation in paid-off-campus internships in their field of study.
- OPT is used primarily after graduation, and provides international students the ability to gain employment experience in their field of study. Students should apply 90 days prior to graduation
- Visit viterbicareers.usc.edu/internships to obtain information on earning academic credit for your internship
- Attend OIS workshops and programs to connect with other international students, improve your U.S. cultural proficiency and English language skills