**EFFECTIVE WAYS OF STUDYING BEFORE EXAMS**

**YEAR 4**

- Up to 105 days before your program end date:
  - Complete the OPT (Optional Practical Training) Workshop online through Terra Dotta and request an OPT I-20 from ISS.
- 15 business days after you submit your request:
  - Receive your new OPT I-20 from ISS.
- No earlier than 90 days before your program end date:
  - Submit your OPT application packet to USCIS (United States Citizenship & Immigration Services). The latest date USCIS can receive your OPT application is 60 days after your program end date.
  - Graduation would be somewhere in the middle of the above bullet point.
  - UScis processing time is an average of 3-5 months: Wait for USCIS decision.
- Within 10 days of any changes:
  - Report any updates of employment or personal information (change in your US address for example) to ISS.

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**TIMELINE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

**YEAR 1**

**Explore Career Options**

During this time, you can engage in career exploration, consider partaking in the courses (210/215), or get started building a resume and LinkedIn profile.

**YEAR 2 & 3**

**Explore Internship Opportunities**

Connect with the SuccessWorks advisor or your school/college for questions on internship and job opportunities.

**YEAR 2 & 3**

**Talk to your academic/career advisor about CPT (Curricular Practical Training) opportunities and what class you need to enroll in (CPT requires you to enroll in an appropriate CPT/internship class every semester you participate in CPT)**

- Connect with the instructor for INTER-LS 260.
- Get an employment offer letter for CPT.
- (at latest 15 business days before you want to begin CPT) Apply for CPT through Terra Dotta and complete the Inter-LS 260 application.
- Be approved for CPT by ISS.
- Begin working on CPT.

**YEAR 4**

**Complete 2 semesters (I Fall, I Spring) as an active student at UW-Madison**

- In general, the critical year to apply for internships is during junior year.
- However, you can always apply to an internship before junior year. Just make sure by the time you start your internship, you would've completed 2 semesters as an active student at UW-Madison.

**YEAR 4**

**Begin the Job Search Process**

Connect with the SuccessWorks advisors for questions on internship and job opportunities or visit careers.wisc.edu.

**YEAR 4**

Apply for OPT (Optional Practical Training)

- Up to 105 days before your program end date:
  - Complete the OPT (Optional Practical Training) Workshop online through Terra Dotta and request an OPT I-20 from ISS.
- 15 business days after you submit your request:
  - Receive your new OPT I-20 from ISS.
  - No earlier than 90 days before your program end date:
  - Submit your OPT application packet to USCIS (United States Citizenship & Immigration Services). The latest date USCIS can receive your OPT application is 60 days after your program end date.
  - Graduation would be somewhere in the middle of the above bullet point.
  - USCIS processing time is an average of 3-5 months: Wait for USCIS decision.
  - Begin working. The approved employment dates for OPT will be printed on the card.
  - Within 10 days of any changes:
    - Report any updates of employment or personal information (change in your US address for example) to ISS.

MORE TIPS: WWW.SUCCESSWORKS.WISC.EDU