Academic Training Workshop

RIT International Student Services
https://www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/iss/
What is Academic Training?
Academic training (AT) is...

Temporary employment for hands-on training directly related to your major/area of study.
Your primary purpose in the United States is to study rather than engage in academic training;

Academic training must be directly related to your major field of study at the school named on your Form DS-2019;

You must be in good academic standing; and

Obtain written approval in advance from the Responsible Officer for the duration and type of academic training.

AT can only be authorized by the program sponsor (RIT, IIE, CBIE, American Councils, etc.)
# Two Types of Academic Training

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Pre-Completion</th>
<th>Post-Completion</th>
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<td>May be part-time* or full-time</td>
<td>Always full-time</td>
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| • Generally full-time for a registered co-op  
  • Or, full-time during summer break  
  • Or, part-time while in classes (rare) | Must have job offer **before** graduation |
| Must be authorized **in advance** by ISS or your J-1 sponsor (IIE, CBIE, American Councils, etc.) | Must be authorized **in advance** by ISS or your J-1 sponsor (IIE, CBIE, American Councils, etc.) |
| Must have job offer **before** requesting AT | Must provide job offer to ISS (or J-1 sponsor) **before** graduation |

*All academic training is **counted as full time**, even if used on a part-time basis*
Steps for AT Authorization

• Present a job offer to ISS (or your sponsoring agency) before the completion of your studies and before the end date on your DS-2019.

• Academic training must commence no later than 30 days after completion of studies.
Job Offer: You can scan and email this to ISS

Written Certification from your Academic Department that the training is related to your area of study: Ask ISS for a template

New DS-2019 and Academic Training authorization letter are then issued by ISS (or your J-1 sponsor)
How much AT can I use?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Undergraduate/Masters/Pre-doctoral Training</th>
<th>Post-doctoral Training</th>
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<td>Maximum of <strong>18 months</strong> (inclusive of any prior academic training in the United States), or the period of full course of study in the US, whichever is less.</td>
<td>Maximum of <strong>36 months</strong> (inclusive of any prior academic training in the United States), or the period of full course of study in the US, whichever is less.</td>
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Q: What if my degree only took 12 months to complete?
A: You have a maximum of 12 months of AT!

Q: What if I’ve used 10 months of AT to do co-ops?
A: You have a maximum of 8 months of left to use for post-graduation AT.

Q: What if my (non-RIT) sponsor does not allow for AT?
A: You cannot engage in Academic Training.
What to carry while traveling:

Required:
- DS-2019 (with a valid travel signature)
- Academic Training Authorization Letter
- Valid passport
- Valid visa*

Recommended:
- Employment letter (or recent paystub)

* If leaving the US, you will need a valid J-1 visa to re-enter. Exception: Travel to Canada, Mexico and Caribbean. Since rules can change, we recommend you contact ISS before making travel plans if your visa is expired.
Many J-1 visa holders (and their dependents) are subject to a 2-year home residency requirement (212e) after completing their degree (and Academic Training).

Obtaining a waiver of this 2-year home residency requirement is difficult.

If you are subject to 212e, you would first need to obtain a waiver before you can switch to another status.

Waivers can take 6-9 months and generally require you to remain in the US if your visa has expired. (J-1 visa renewal is not recommended after applying for a waiver).
While you are on Academic Training, you are still considered an J-1 Student!

Therefore, you must:

• Email ISS about any address changes
• Contact ISS if you want to change employers
  ▪ AT is employer-specific, so you will need to follow the steps to apply for AT again
  ▪ You will need a new job offer letter and a new letter from your academic department
How did we do?

Please take this quick 5 question quiz to help us improve our workshop!

[QR Code]
Any Questions?