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.
“AT” Eligibility

• 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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-Completion</th>
<th>Post-Completion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May be part-time* or full-time</td>
<td>Always full-time</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Generally full-time for a registered co-op</td>
<td>Must have job offer before graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Or, full-time during summer break</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Or, part-time while in classes (rare)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Must be authorized in advance by ISS or your J-1 sponsor (IIE, CBIE, American Councils, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Must have job offer before requesting AT</td>
<td>Must provide job offer to ISS (or J-1 sponsor) before graduation</td>
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* All academic training is **counted as full time**, even if used on a part-time basis
• 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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<th>Undergraduate/Masters/Pre-doctoral Training</th>
<th>Post-doctoral Training</th>
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<td>Maximum of 18 months (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 36 months (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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</table>
**So what if...**

**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!

http://studentvoice.com/riot/atspring2017
Any Questions?