

# The Global Glance

A Monthly Update from the Office of Global Engagement  
April 2021



## Visa/Immigration

### Optional Practical Training (OPT)

Most international students holding F-1 visa status are aware of their ability to apply for work permission following their degree completion. This type of work permission is called Optional Practical Training (OPT). OPT takes between 45 and 150 days to be approved and currently costs \$410. Many UNMC students are in STEM-qualified degree programs, which makes them eligible for the 24-month STEM extension of OPT.

With Spring Commencement approaching in May, any F-1 student who is graduating this spring should consider applying for OPT. The process starts with a consultation with Dan Teet, the international student advisor for UNMC. For graduate students, the OPT process typically starts within three months of the estimated defense date. For undergraduate and professional students, it typically starts three months before graduation, but can be started any time up to and including the 60-day grace period following degree completion.

For J-1 students, there is a similar employment opportunity called Academic Training. The process to be approved for this training is different from F-1 OPT, but the eligibility requirements are similar. If you have questions about either of these benefits, or anything else related to international student employment, please contact Dan Teet.

Contact: Dan Teet, [dteet@unmc.edu](mailto:dteet@unmc.edu).

### Long Processing Times for Certain Cases Continue at the USCIS

UNMC/UNO employees who are authorized for employment based on a work permit called an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) have been experiencing longer than normal processing times. Employees who often rely on this type of work permit include those who are being sponsored for permanent residence, spouses of J-1 visa holders, and F-1 former students employed via a type of EAD known as Optional Practical Training. EAD's for employees who have been sponsored for permanent residence and have applied for an adjustment of status are now taking more than six months.

Applications to extend or to change an H-1b employee's spouse or child for H-4 status are often taking more than one year. Although USCIS posts processing times on its website at [www.uscis.gov/](http://www.uscis.gov/), the actual average processing time for all case types is often much longer than reflected on the website.

Contact: Steve Daubendiek, [sdaubend@unmc.edu](mailto:sdaubend@unmc.edu)

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### International Photo Contest

The contest had 12 faculty/staff and 22 student/resident participants, with a total of 92 photos submitted. To see photo contest award winners and all submissions, visit the [photo contest webpage](#).

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### Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program

**2022-23 [Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program](#) competition is open!**

Visit the [Catalog of Awards](#) for details of over 400 awards offered across 130 countries. The deadline to apply is **September 15, 2021**. Please note that U.S. citizenship is required. Join a webinar this month to learn more about Fulbright opportunities around the world.

To join the live webinars in April and to view more upcoming and archived webinars, visit the [Webinar Schedule](#). Can't join us live? All webinars are recorded and archived on the website.

**[Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Program \(S-I-R\)](#)** continues to seek institutions to host Fulbright Visiting Scholars.

S-I-R is a unique Fulbright Scholar Program initiative that is specifically driven by the goals of U.S. institutions of higher education to enhance internationalization efforts on their campuses. Through the S-I-R Program, institutions host a scholar from outside of the United States for a semester or full academic year to teach courses, assist in curriculum development, guest lecture, develop study abroad/exchange partnerships and engage with the campus and the local community.

Interested in learning more about the S-I-R? [Please complete this brief survey to stay informed!](#)

If you have any questions regarding the Fulbright Programs, please feel free to contact [Wael EIRayes](#).

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