

Career Toolkit for International Students

Boston University offers a range of support services and resources for current international students, and many of these resources remain available to you as an alum.

International Students & Scholars Office (ISSO)

Come here if you have questions about:

- Your immigration documents and your status
- Work authorization, including if an internship or other experiential learning opportunity follows your visa guidelines
- Finding workshops to learn more about common questions and work authorization from ISSO staff and immigration attorneys



bu.edu/isso/



isso@bu.edu



Appointments via ISSO website

Center for Career Development (CCD)

Come here if you have questions about:

- Career exploration, planning your next steps after graduation, and what experiences would be beneficial as a student
- Completing crucial application materials (i.e. resume and cover letter for job applications, statement of purpose for graduate school) for your next steps
- How to network and where to find networking and employment opportunities



careers.bu.edu



future@bu.edu



Appointments via bu.joinhandshake.com/edu

Interstride

Use this tool to:

- Find job and internship opportunities internationally
- Explore U.S. companies that have a history of hiring international talent



interstride.com

BU Connects

Use this tool to:

- Build your network by connecting with BU alumni in the U.S. and internationally
- Learn about alumni career paths



buconnects.com

BU Support Pathways

Use this resource hub to find:

- Wellbeing and mental health support
- Initial legal consultations for select immigration concerns
- Housing, financial, and safety information



bu.edu/support-pathways

Terrier Central

Use this tool to:

- Explore student groups related to your career interests
- Find ways to connect with other international students on campus



terriercentral.bu.edu

Other resources you'll need:

Use your **Academic Department(s)** to get support in determining if an off-campus experience is related to your degree

If available, use your college's **Career Development Office (CDO)** to access information, opportunities, and events specific to your industry



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Tips from the CCD:

- **Explore.** If you want to explore experiences that aren't related to your degree, consider working on campus or joining a student group. These are valuable career experiences that don't require work authorization.
- **Connect.** Networking is your biggest tool in a U.S. job search. You can attend events hosted by the CCD to meet peers and employers in your field!
- **Communicate.** Highlight the skills you've developed that are unique to your international experience. What can you offer that someone else can't?
- **Scope.** Consider small and mid-sized companies (not just big "name brand" companies), and small and "secondary" cities (mid-sized cities that are rapidly growing) in your search.

Interacting with Employers:

There are some organizations that truly can't hire international candidates, but many would be open, but just don't know about the process. Prepare to answer common questions, like "Do you require sponsorship?" or "Do you need work authorization?" Being able to answer clearly and confidently will help employers feel more confident about their ability to hire you, too.

Good answers:

- **For internships:** My student visa covers me for internships. I don't need any authorization or sponsorship from an employer.
- **For full-time roles:** My student visa covers me for X months during which time I do not need authorization or sponsorship from my employer. After that, I would need my employer to file for a work visa, but I expect that by then I will have really demonstrated my value and fit for your company. (*Consult with ISSO about the length of time you are authorized on your visa)

"Do you require work authorization now or in the future?"

Sometimes you will see this question as part of an internship or job application. It's frustrating and confusing because you can usually obtain work authorization as part of your student visa (now), but if you were to stay with the company, you would likely require sponsorship from the organization (the future). It puts you in a hard spot.

- **For internships:** ISSO and the CCD recommend that you answer "NO". If the experience is related to your degree, you may have options under your student visa status - work with ISSO.
- **For full-time roles,** you can talk to ISSO about how to proceed, but it's recommended that you respond "YES."

Wording matters. If the questions are broken up into two parts, it's much clearer how to answer.

- "Do you require sponsorship now?" NO.
- "Will you require sponsorship in the future?" YES.